

BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

FEBRUARY, 1994

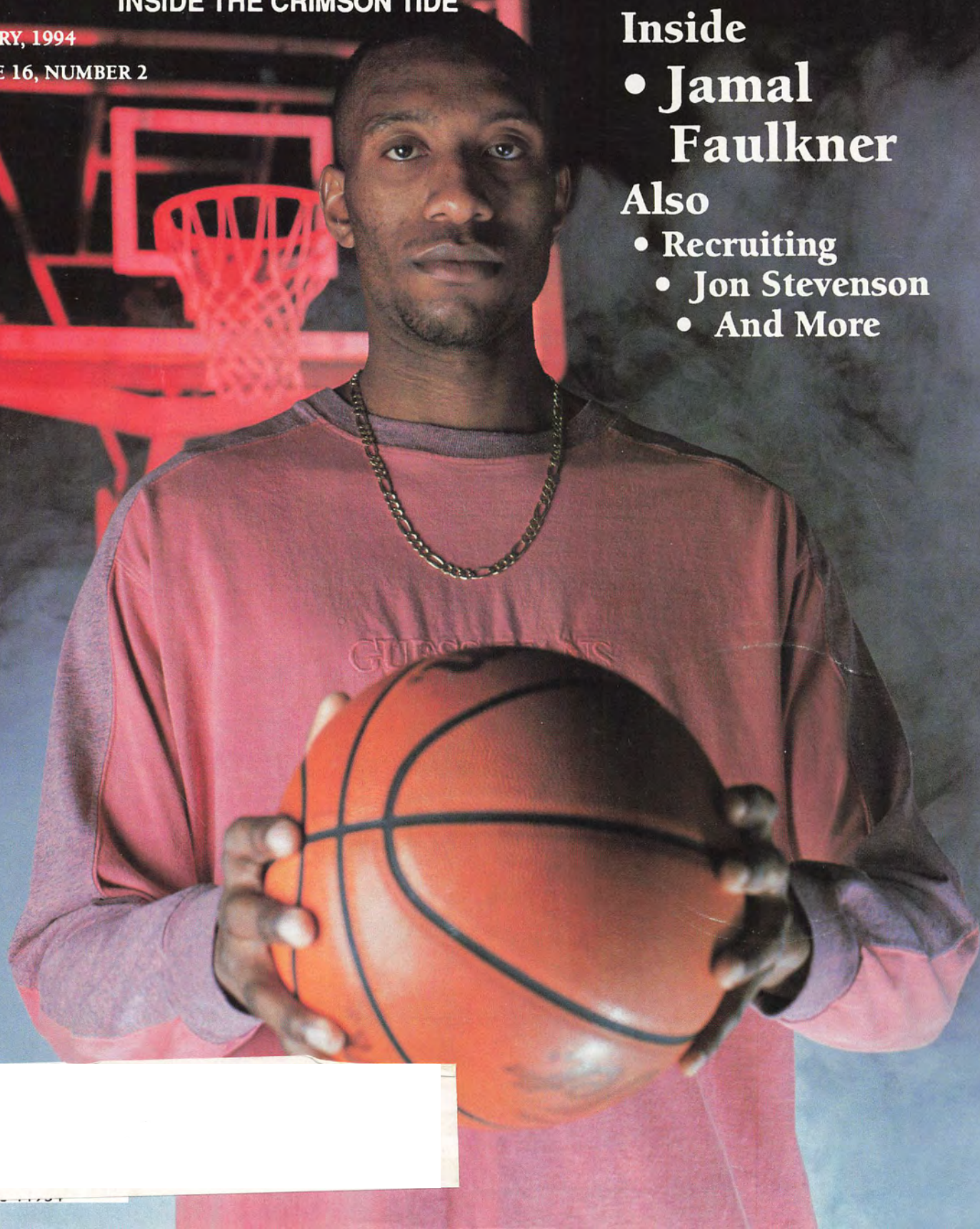
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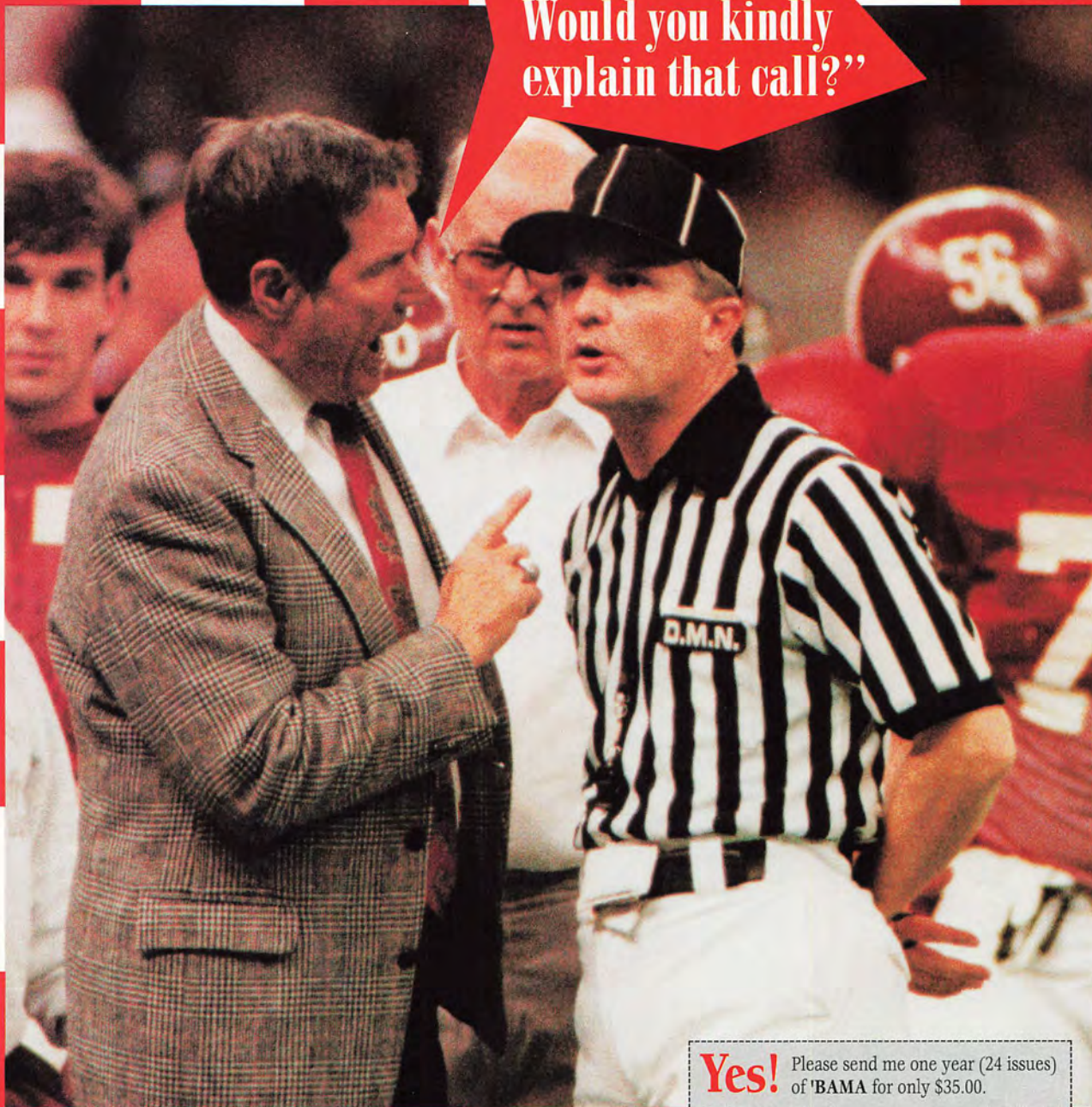
• **Jamal
Faulkner**

Also

- Recruiting
- Jon Stevenson
- And More



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by 7 p.m. each Sunday and after men's basketball games
(Selection 4)

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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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Barry Fikes Photo



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by Kirk McNair

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There's Never A Dull Moment

by Kirk McNair

Return of Homer Smith,
loss of David Palmer,
Jelks testimony make news

It doesn't take a football game for Alabama to have football news. While the main focus at this time of year is football recruiting, several other football-related items keep Bama on the front pages of the sports sections of newspapers.

Changes in status of Crimson Tide football coaches, as well as a change in the staff, were particularly prominent in mid-January. And some of these changes could be expected to have an effect on recruiting. The two most noteworthy actions taken by the athletics department were:

- Athletics Director Hootie Ingram extended the contract of Head Football Coach Gene Stallings through the 1998 season.

- Stallings hired Homer Smith as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

Stallings, 58, had been working on the final year of his original five-year contract. While there was speculation that Alabama might have difficulties in recruiting if players thought Stallings might not be at Alabama through the college playing careers of the prospects, any number of surveys have shown that a half dozen or more issues than the head coach affect high school football prospects in their decision-making process. (Naturally, when Alabama's head coach was Paul Bryant, the head coach had a major affect on recruiting, but that is the exception, not the rule.)

Among many things that prospects say matters more to them than who the head coach is are: academics (number one in every survey, but probably just students saying what they think everyone wants to hear), facilities, chance of early playing time, chance of playing on television, geography, and assistant coach recruiting them.

Stallings pointed out that he tells prospects not to select a school "for the wrong reasons," one of those "wrong reasons" being the head football coach, because there is nothing that guarantees a head coach will continue through the length of a contract.

Will Stallings be at Alabama five more seasons? There's no doubt that Gene Stallings loves being a football coach and loves being Alabama's head football coach. It's also very lucrative, and we're still waiting to meet the first altruistic college coach. Stallings has in-



Homer Smith

terests beyond football, and it won't be a shock if he does not stay the full five years; however, in the past Stallings has made a point of noting that he has never failed to fulfill the terms of any contract he has signed. Of course, we haven't seen the terms of that contract.

There were other staff changes in Alabama football. Room was made for Smith to return by Mal Moore, the assistant head coach and quarterbacks coach, accepting an offer from Ingram to become an associate athletics director. On and off the record, everyone in the athletics department said that Moore had the option to remain on the field or to take the office job.

Moore's position as assistant head coach was awarded to Woody McCorvey, the receivers' coach. McCorvey had earlier turned down an offer of offensive coordinator at Clemson.

Another Alabama assistant coach who turned down an offer elsewhere was also rewarded with a new title. Bill Oliver, Bama's secondary coach, is now the defensive coordinator. There is also good reason to believe that Oliver was given something else: assurance that he is the man to succeed Stallings as the Tide's head football coach.

Finally, Randy Ross was moved from recruiting coordinator to assistant football coach. Ross, who was an assistant coach at Vanderbilt before taking the Alabama job as recruiting coordinator, has not been given specific coaching duties. The NCAA eliminated the position of recruiting coordinator this year. The cost-cutting move means that recruiting must be coordinated by a coach, and Ross will continue to handle that job.



Mike Dubose

Alabama had an opening on the football staff because Ellis Johnson, who had coached Bama's outside linebackers, left the Tide to take the same position at Clemson.

Alabama also faced the probability of having to replace Mike Dubose, who has been reported as leaving the Tide staff to return to the National Football League as defensive line coach of the Tampa Bay Bucs. Although the timing of that report was unfortunate from a recruiting standpoint, Stallings had dozens of applicants for the previous vacancy and will have no trouble finding an excellent replacement for Dubose.

Stallings pointed out that if Alabama makes the 4-3—that is four defensive linemen and three linebackers—its basic defense (and that seems likely), then only three defensive coaches are needed—one for the line (Dubose if he doesn't leave for pro football), one for the linebackers (Jeff Rouzie) and one for the secondary (Oliver). All of Alabama's offensive coaches are set—Smith quarterbacks, McCorvey tight ends and wide receivers, Larry Kirksey running backs, Jimmy Fuller centers and guards, and Danny Pearman tackles.

Pearman also coordinated the Alabama kicking game last fall after Bama had tried to coach the special teams by committee the previous year. Neither result was satisfactory. Ross could end up with that responsibility.

A couple of interesting notes about the return of Smith:

He said that Stallings asked UCLA Head Coach Terry Donahue for permission to speak to Smith and Donahue asked Stallings to wait until after the deadline for undergraduate players to declare for the pro draft, the obvious explanation being that Donahue

didn't want the loss of Smith to cause UCLA to lose any of the top undergraduate stars who led UCLA to the Rose Bowl this year.

Another significant development is that Smith had been officially on the job at Alabama about eight hours and Alabama received commitments from two of the nation's top high school senior quarterbacks.

Smith is making his second coaching appearance at Alabama. He was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach under Bill Curry in 1988-89. Alabama averaged 26.2 points per game in 1988 and led the Southeastern Conference with an average of 30.2 points per game in 1989 when Bama went 10-2.

Smith maintained a residence in Tuscaloosa over the past four years while at UCLA.

There is one significant player who will not be a part of the Alabama offense in 1994. David Palmer, among the most exceptional players ever to dress in crimson and white, has elected to make himself available for the National Football League draft.

The primary draw for Palmer to return was the chance for the Heisman Trophy. He was third in voting for the award as a junior and would have been the top returning candidate in 1994 since Tennessee quarterback Heath Shuler (who finished second in the balloting) had declared for the pro draft a day earlier than Palmer.

Stallings said that Palmer never asked his head coach for advice. Stallings probably would have been torn in providing advice. The Bama head coach said after the fact that if Palmer is a first round draft choice, he made the correct decision. If he is not a first round pick, Palmer probably made the wrong decision. Most of those who predict the draft believe Palmer will be a first round selection.

Stallings is also genuinely convinced that someone with an opportunity to earn a college degree finish school and earn that degree. Although Palmer has said that he intends to continue school and work towards his degree, no one would suggest that The University classrooms could prepare Palmer to make an income equivalent to what he will earn if he is successful in professional football.

Finally on the football front, are the revelations from Atlanta. Former Alabama football player Gene Jelks, heretofore making allegations primarily through an attorney with suspicious Auburn connections, finally had to face some questions while under oath. What a difference the threat of a perjury charge can make.

Because of Jelks' allegations that former Alabama Assistant Coach Jerry Pullen broke NCAA rules in the recruitment of Jelks and while Jelks was a player at Alabama, two things happened: Pullen sued Jelks for defamation of character and the NCAA



David Palmer

began a preliminary inquiry into Alabama's football program, the first time Bama has ever undergone NCAA scrutiny.

It is for the legal system to determine what progress was made on Pullen's behalf when Pullen's attorneys (including former Alabama player Randy Edwards) took a sworn deposition from Jelks, but as in virtually every other revelation since the allegations were revealed in an Atlanta newspaper in September, 1992, the Alabama position has benefitted.

Jelks not only recanted his charges against Pullen, he also implicated a familiar name, Corky Frost. Frost is the Auburn booster (now disassociated from the Auburn program by NCAA edict, but at the time of the events still a booster in good standing) who played a major role in Auburn's latest probation. Frost was found to have provided prohibited benefits to former Auburn player Eric Ramsey.

Incredibly, according to court documents, Frost blamed two former Alabama football players, Billy Neighbors and Dr. Gaylon McCollough, for Auburn's most recent probation. (Both Neighbors and McCollough labeled the charges preposterous.)

Frost apparently arranged Jelks' transportation to Atlanta and Jelks said he made a telephone call in which he tried to entrap Pullen from Frost's office.

Even before Jelks' deposition was made public, 'BAMA heard from two separate sources that The University was nearing the end of its ordeal and that the result would be a finding of not guilty. The following was reported on the 'BAMA Hotline:

We have learned from a very reliable source that Alabama Athletics Director Hootie Ingram has been given informal notification that the NCAA has found no evidence of wrongdoing on the part of The University regarding the athletics career of former Alabama football player Gene Jelks. Ingram

reportedly received this information even before it was revealed that Jelks had, under oath, recanted some of the charges against former Alabama Assistant Coach Jerry Pullen, who is suing Jelks for defamation of character, and before it was revealed that Jelks had made a telephone call trying to entrap Pullen from the office of Corky Frost, the Auburn booster whose illegal payments to former Auburn football player Eric Ramsey were in part responsible for Auburn being placed on probation again.

Although it was reported on some radio talk shows that this had been reported in 'BAMA magazine, that is not true. The first publication of the statement was in the *Mobile Press-Register*, where the one voice in the wilderness, columnist Jimmy Wigfield, writes regularly with the implication that Alabama is NCAA probation-bound.

Wigfield has followed the case far more diligently than any other reporter and he is right about some things, one of them being that the NCAA Enforcement Staff does not give informal notification to a school regarding its work. (For 'BAMA to point out that its statement did not say Ingram had received the notification from the NCAA Enforcement Staff or any other branch of the NCAA staff is hairsplitting; that was the implication.)

Ingram reinforced Wigfield's position on that matter. He told 'BAMA that he absolutely has not received notification from the NCAA Enforcement Staff.

The NCAA's letter informing The University of its inquiry was dated September 22 and included the notation that it would provide The University with a written report of the status of the case within six months, which would be March 22. The NCAA letter also said it hoped that the inquiry would be completed in less than six months.

Although it may seem unfair for The University to have the inquiry hanging over its head during football recruiting when all indications are there is no credible witness against The University, the inquiry process takes time. The NCAA staff has no interest in being unfair to an NCAA member, and that is not its intention.

In any event:

-Ingram now believes it will be at the end of the six-month period before The University receives official notification from the NCAA; and

-the probe appears to have had no adverse affect on football recruiting.

An amusing sidelight: *Tuscaloosa News* Sports Editor Cecil Hurt was interviewed on a radio talk show and was asked why Wigfield seemed to be the one journalist with knowledge of the inquiry and of the discredited allegations who continues to insist the NCAA will extend its preliminary inquiry to an official inquiry (an official inquiry is tantamount to a finding of guilty). Hurt replied, "Well, there are 1,700 members of the Flat Earth Society."

It Looks Like A Very Good Year

by Kirk McNair

With signing day just around the corner, Bama has top players committed

One of the few truths of football recruiting is that Alabama is almost always going to have a very good year; and that is to say that Crimson Tide coaches are going to be able to sign a number of players who are considered to be good prospects to play football at the level which Alabama plays. And that should be the end of any ratings game.

But it won't be. A leading cottage industry, particularly in the hotbed of college football, the Southeast, is the recruiting service. As in just about anything else, some are better than others. In fact, for the past few years most college football recruiting coordinators have subscribed to these services. (The recent NCAA convention did away with the position of recruiting coordinator and now is considering forbidding schools to subscribe to recruiting services.) However, any recruiting service attempting to rate players on ability rather than by which schools are seeking them is peddling baloney.

The coaches, whose livelihoods depend on making the selections, are much better judges of talent than are the recruiting gurus, particularly those who try to cover the country. When an Alabama gets a commitment from a player who is not ranked as a superstar by the recruiting services, it's best to figure that the recruiting service—not the coach—is wrong.

Every member of the Alabama football staff knows that Alabama can bring in 25 new signees next fall. Alabama coaches also know that some whom the Tide is recruiting are borderline academically, meaning they have not yet qualified under NCAA guidelines. And some may not qualify. Some schools guard against this possibility by signing more than 25. If more than 25 are academically eligible, it's just going to be tough luck for however many over 25 are signed. Our information is that Alabama has decided to sign no more than 25, not wishing to take the chance of having to go back on a promise of a scholarship. Good business? Maybe not. Good ethics? Yes.

One question each football staff must ask itself as the recruiting process begins (which is approximately the day after the last signing period) is what po-

sitions it needs to fill. Obviously there are no hard and fast rules on limits. If a team wants to sign a quarterback but has an opportunity to sign two good quarterbacks, the team will probably take two.

This year it was thought that Alabama would attempt to sign defensive backs, linebackers and wide receivers, areas where the Tide has some upcoming voids. And no team ever turns down linemen, the hardest positions to find top prospects.

As the recruiting process for this year nears the February 2 day on which prospects may begin signing scholarships, it appears Alabama is going to be able to sign 25 new players. Of course, it almost always seems that way with a couple of weeks to go, but strange things happen in recruiting. Last year Alabama probably expected to sign two very good football players in the Mobile area, but Auburn pulled a shocker and got them both. This year the rumor mill says that Auburn will break into the Town Creek to Tuscaloosa pipeline and get two of the three prospects Alabama is seeking from Hazlewood—linebackers Steven Harris and Chris Hood. (Alabama is also offering running back Montoya Madden, Auburn reportedly is not.)

A guess at how many players at each position Alabama will sign is an educated guess, but a guess nonetheless.

Quarterback does not appear to be a mystery. Alabama appears headed for two signees, John David Phillips of Anniston and Warren Foust of Midwest City, Oklahoma.

The same thing goes for offensive linemen.

Things Change

One of few sure things about recruiting is that there will be last minute surprises.

While we have made every effort that this story be accurate, as of this writing—over a week before the signing date—the process obviously is not complete.

The BAMA Hotline was operating continuously through January and through February 1, then was scheduled to be updated hourly beginning at 9 a.m. CST on signing day, Wednesday, February 2.

What should be a final update on this year's football recruiting will be on the Hotline by noon Thursday, February 3.

The Hotline number is:
1-900-860-1979

It appears Alabama will sign four. Chris Sign of Arlington, Texas; Matt Harrison of Dadeville; and Sage Spree of Eutaw are committed, and Josh Swords of Brentwood, Tennessee, was widely expected to commit to Alabama following his visit the weekend of January 21-23.

As of that weekend, Alabama had only one wide receiver committed, Aaron Oliver of Arlington, Texas. However, two more—Calvin Hall of Gallatin, Tennessee, and Deshea Townsend of Batesville, Mississippi—were considered to be favoring Bama.

With Homer Smith returning to Alabama as offensive coordinator, one can't help but remember the importance of fullbacks and tight ends to his offensive scheme. Although Alabama has two young tight ends, there was a belief that Alabama would try to add one. Top candidates appeared to be Rod Rutledge of Birmingham (although some think Rutledge has a future as a defensive lineman) and Charles Johnson of Tuscaloosa, one of those aforementioned academic borderline cases.

The fullback in the Smith offense isn't the bruising blocker of the average I attack. He is a runner and pass receiver. Thus Alabama went looking for the likes of a Freddie Beasley of Montgomery or a Kenneth Scissum of Attalla. (Incidentally, Scissum's family calls him Ed, and that may be what he's called after signing day. A part of the Alabama recruiting weekend is a dinner for the visiting prospects in the press box at Bryant-Denny Stadium. While the prospects dine, the scoreboard is operational, with the message board welcoming each prospect by name. One of the names on the scoreboard this year was Ed Scissum.) Alabama has also been involved with fullback Lamar Glenn from Daytona Beach, Florida. And reports continue that Andre Akins of Central, South Carolina (the school from which Tide freshman offensive lineman Joel Holliday came), is a Tide possibility.

The tailback (or halfback in Alabama's terminology) remains the critical running back position, and Alabama is seeking some of the best. In addition to Madden (whose offer may be contingent on the Tide getting all three Hazlewood players), Bama has recruited *Parade* All-America Jerod Douglas of Converse, Texas, and Dennis Riddle of Tuscaloosa.

Alabama has not been involved with kickers this year.

On the defensive side, it would not be a surprise to see Alabama ink five backs. Two, Brad Ford of Dadeville (who will come from All-America performance at Fresno City College in California),



Matt Harrison

and Owen Winston of Montgomery, were early commitments. Additionally, Alabama was considered to be the leader for two Tennessee stars, Michael Coleman of Nashville and Emmett Mitchell of Memphis. Alabama's considerable Texas recruiting efforts also include Bo Springfield of Denison, the school from which current Tide freshman linebacker Tyrell Buckner came. And one of Mississippi's best, Jamie Day of Philadelphia, is also thought to be a possibility. He is a former teammate of freshman lineman Will Friend.

An irony of the recruiting season has been that many believe Alabama is the leader for as many as eight linebackers, and that Bama might sign as many as six linebackers. But in the early going, only little-known Franz Odom (a cousin and former teammate of Tide freshman linebacker Ralph Staten) of Semmes had committed to Bama.

It is a big year for linebackers in Alabama, if the Hazlewood duo of Harris and Hood are both considered linebackers. Tito Smith of Birmingham, Chris Edwards of Bessemer, Eddie Hunter of Mobile and Cliff Jackson of Lanett are bona fide prospects. Additionally, Alabama was involved with the top prospect in Mississippi this year, linebacker Dwayne Rudd of Batesville. (Rudd wore a Tennessee shirt to Tuscaloosa on his recruiting visit, prompting most to believe rumors that he intends to wear orange in college and reportedly prompting Alabama Assistant Coach Bill Oliver to say, "You've got the guts of a burglar to wear that shirt over here.")

If there is a key to having a great football program, it may be the key is to have great defensive linemen. There aren't many with the size and speed and temperament to play on the defensive line. Ten days prior to signing date, Alabama did not have a defensive lineman committed. And the report that

Recruiting At A Glance

Public Commitments

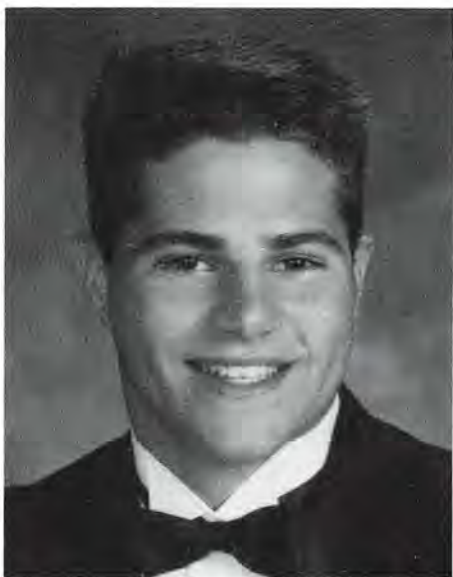
Brad Ford, 5-10, 175, defensive back, Dadeville (Fresno, Calif., Junior College) ✓
 Warren Foust, 6-3, 205, quarterback, Midwest City, Oklahoma ✓
 Matt Harrison, 6-5, 260, offensive lineman, Dadeville ✓
 Franz Odom, 6-1, 240, linebacker, Mary Montgomery of Semmes ✓
 Aaron Oliver, 6-0, 180, wide receiver, Arlington, Texas, Lamar ✓
 John David Phillips, 6-3, 200, quarterback, Anniston ✓
 Chris Sign, 6-2, 252, offensive lineman, Arlington, Texas, Lamar ✓
 Sage Spree, 6-5, 291, offensive lineman, Eutaw Warrior Academy ✓
 Owen Winston, 5-10, 175, defensive back, Montgomery Carver ✓

Some Thought To Be Close to Committing To Alabama

Michael Coleman, 6-0, 195, defensive back, Nashville Stratford ✓
 Jerod Douglas, 5-9, 165, running back, Converse, Texas, Judson ✓
 Chris Edwards, 6-2, 220, linebacker, Bessemer Jess Lanier ✓
 Calvin Hall, 6-4, 187, wide receiver, Gallatin, Tennessee ✓
 Eddie Hunter, 6-3, 210, linebacker, Mobile LeFlore ✓
 Kenneth Scissum, 6-2, 214, running back, Attalla Etowah ✓
 Josh Swords, 6-3, 270, offensive lineman, Brentwood, Tennessee, Academy ✓
 Deshea Townsend, 5-10, 170, wide receiver, Batesville, Miss., South Panola ✓

Some Others Who May Be Signed By Alabama

Freddie Beasley, 6-1, 195, running back, Montgomery Lee ✓
 Jeff Coleman, 6-4, 240, defensive end, Gaffney, South Carolina ✓
 Jamie Day, 6-0, 190, defensive back, Philadelphia, Miss., Neshoba Central ✓
 Alan Faneca, 6-5, 295, offensive lineman, Rosenberg, Texas, Lamar ✓
 Derrick Fletcher, 6-7, 300, defensive tackle, Aldine, Texas ✓
 Courtney Freeman, 5-10, 170, wide receiver, Marietta, Georgia ✓
 Lamar Glenn, 6-1, 245, fullback, Daytona Beach, Florida, Seabreeze ✓
 Steven Harris, 6-1, 220, linebacker/safety, Town Creek Hazlewood ✓
 Chris Hood, 6-3, 240, linebacker, Town Creek Hazlewood ✓
 Cletidus Hunt, 6-4, 268, defensive lineman, Memphis Whitehaven ✓
 Marcus Hunter, 6-3, 250, defensive end, Daphne ✓
 Cliff Jackson, 6-2, 218, linebacker, Lanett ✓
 Charles Johnson, 6-4, 230, tight end, Tuscaloosa Central ✓
 Eric Kerley, 6-2, 280, nose tackle, Birmingham Berry ✓
 Montoya Madden, 5-9, 205, running back, Town Creek Hazlewood ✓
 Emmett Mitchell, 6-0, 187, defensive back, Memphis Whitehaven ✓
 Damon Nivens, 6-6, 296, defensive lineman, Bay Minette Baldwin County ✓
 Patterson Owens, 6-4, 246, defensive end, Mobile LeFlore ✓
 Matt Parker, 6-4, 275, defensive tackle, Northeast Oklahoma Junior College ✓
 Dennis Riddle, 6-0, 195, running back, Tuscaloosa Central ✓
 Ryon Ross, 6-4, 240, defensive end, Garland, Texas, Lakeview Centennial ✓
 Taurus Rucker, 6-2, 250, defensive lineman, Dennison, Texas ✓
 Dwayne Rudd, 6-3, 240, linebacker, Batesville, Mississippi, South Panola ✓
 Rod Rutledge, 6-5, 230, tight end/defensive lineman, Birmingham Erwin ✓
 Tito Smith, 6-3, 210, linebacker, Birmingham Shades Valley ✓
 Trevis Smith, 6-1, 215, linebacker, Montgomery Robert E. Lee ✓
 Bo Springfield, 5-11, 170, defensive back, Dennison, Texas ✓
 Chris Terry, 6-7, 225, defensive end, Jacksonville, Florida, Ribault ✓
 Dan Witherspoon, 6-3, 280, defensive lineman, Mobile McGill-Toolen ✓



Chris Sign



Sage Spree



Owen Winston

Mike Dubose, who has coached the Tide defensive line the past four years, is leaving to return to pro football isn't likely to help matters. The timing of the report from Tampa, Florida, that Dubose was returning to the Bucs couldn't have been worse. It's too late to get a replacement prior to signing day, so defensive line prospects have to take it on faith that Alabama will have a qualified position coach for them.

A few weeks ago it was thought that Alabama was the clear leader for an outstanding junior college player, Matt Parker of Northeast Oklahoma. However, Arizona, which has a defensive reputation to rival Alabama's, is also in the picture for Parker.

There are a handful of prospects in Alabama being wooed by the Tide, including Marcus Hunter of Daphne, Eric Kerley of

Birmingham, Damon Nivens of Bay Minette, Patterson Owens of Mobile and Dan Witherspoon of Mobile. Witherspoon has been an interesting story. He was reported as having committed to Georgia Tech, then was quoted as saying that he was not committed to Georgia Tech and would make a recruiting trip to Alabama.

Although Bama is involved with Chris Terry from Jacksonville, Florida, and Texans Derrick Fletcher of Aldine, Ryon Ross of Garland and Taurus Rucker of Denison, the top out-of-state name linked with the Tide is Cletidus Hunt of Memphis.

Add up the numbers of likely signees at each position and the total is not 25. It's closer to 30. But there have been many years when it appeared Alabama had far too many "commitments" to stay under the signing

number, and in every instance Alabama signed fewer than the allowable figure.

There have been a few so-called losses (you can't lose something you don't have). When Alabama got commitments from two quarterbacks, that ended any possibility of getting the likes of Robert Reed of Brandon, Mississippi, or Scott Covington of Dana Hills, California. Fullback Jeff Butler of Altamonte Springs, Florida, opted for North Carolina State. Alabama had no luck with such top Louisiana prospects as lineman Jarvis Read, running back Chris Howard and defensive back Robert Hammond. A handful of prospects in Georgia, Florida and Texas cancelled visits to Alabama.

But all-in-all, it looks like the same old story. Alabama is headed for a very good signing day.

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Cedric Samuel:

Filling Some Big Football Shoes

by Donald F. Staffo

A regular as a freshman, Samuel is expected to replace Langham in '93 Tide secondary

Sometimes a short-term disadvantage can turn out to be a long-term advantage. Such may be the case with Cedric Samuel, a true freshman suddenly thrust into the heat of battle in the Southeastern Conference Championship Game against Florida and then in the Gator Bowl against North Carolina. Tested under fire and getting burned a little, Samuel has been hardened for the start of the 1994 season in a way that can only be accomplished by big-game competition. And that experience was gained not just by competing against the Gators and Tar Heels, but also significantly advanced by the increased repetitions Samuel received in the three weeks of practice prior to the Crimson Tide's final contest New Year's Eve in Jacksonville.

The week prior to the SEC title game, Bama was blindsided with the news that All-America cornerback Antonio Langham had been declared ineligible for having signed a contract with an agent. Alabama's position was made even more difficult by the ruling coming at the last minute, the day before the game. Alabama had to prepare for the Florida attack not knowing whether Langham would be available. That meant Bama had to practice Langham, but that practice time was time lost to other Tide defensive backs.

With Langham, considered the nation's best college defensive back, disqualified at the last minute, the Tide was forced to turn to Samuel to help fill the void. Prior to the 12th game of the year, Samuel had been mostly a special teams player. His four tackles paled in comparison to the statistics of Langham, 45 tackles and seven interceptions (among his career 19). Alabama had been forced to replace its co-captain and four-year veteran with an inexperienced rookie.

Bama's plan against the Gators was to move safety Willie Gaston to cornerback with Chris Donnelly returning to the starting position at safety. In previous games Donnelly did not start, but came into the game at safety allowing Gaston to become

the nickel back. With both Gaston and Donnelly in the regular four-man secondary, Samuel became the extra back on passing downs. "I was really nervous leading up to the game, but after the first snap I calmed down," Samuel said. "Antonio helped get me prepared. Compared to other games, I felt like I was contributing more." Samuel continued his role on various special teams.

Although Samuel played 63 of Bama's 74 defensive plays and even though Florida quarterback Terry Dean completed 20 of 37

passes for 256 yards and two touchdowns, Samuel was not victimized by the Gators. The nickel back is ordinarily disguised in the secondary and less vulnerable to being exploited.

However, Samuel's role changed for the Gator Bowl, and as a cornerback he was more vulnerable. The Tar Heels seemed to attack Samuel's area, particularly when he was in man-to-man coverage on the fine North Carolina receiver, Corey



Cedric Samuel wasn't listed among the top prospects by the so-called recruiting experts, but he ended up as a starter for Alabama in his freshman season.

Barry Fikes Photo

Holliday. Early in the contest Samuel made a big pass deflection at the Alabama 21-yard line, but moments later Samuel was victimized on a big play that went deep into Tide territory and led to the Carolina touchdown.

"I thought they might try to come at me again, and they did," Samuel said. "When they completed the pass, it discouraged me." The Tide game plan included trying to protect Samuel by constantly moving him. At regular intervals the more experienced cornerback, Tommy Johnson, would swap with Samuel so that neither was regularly in the same position.

Samuel played most of the first quarter, but in the second quarter was replaced by Gaston at cornerback for a few series. In the second half North Carolina abandoned its running game for the passing game and Bama was in the five-back defense much of the final two quarters with Samuel used primarily as the nickel back. Samuel contributed three tackles, as well as the broken up pass, in Bama's 24-10 win.

"I think the coaches thought North Carolina was picking on me by throwing in my direction," Samuel said. "We were playing man-to-man and they were going to the receiver I was covering. I'll admit I felt the pressure. Antonio and the coaches were telling me to calm down and just play hard, to play hard on every snap. But I think they wanted a little more experience out there."

Now Samuel has some of that experience, gained the only way it can be obtained: by playing. When Alabama goes into spring training in March, Samuel expects to be penciled in as the replacement for Antonio Langham, and he's looking forward to that challenge.

"I think I can do the job," he said.

The 5-9, 183-pound Samuel, a native of Demopolis, was for the most part an unsung high school player for the Tigers. The self-styled recruiting experts and all-star selectors didn't accord him the high status most of his current Bama teammates earned as prep players.

There was a good reason for Samuel's relative anonymity during last year's recruiting wars. He didn't put up big numbers in the glamorous statistical areas (i.e., no interceptions). On offense he rushed only 29 times for 186 yards (which is over 6 yards per carry). But there was a good reason. Samuel was ticketed to be the Demopolis quarterback (as well as a defensive back) his senior season, but in the first game he broke his right hand while making a tackle. He had to

wear a soft cast the remainder of the year and forced a move to flanker on a team that rarely threw the football.

Nevertheless, college coaches saw Samuel and he was offered scholarships by Alabama, Auburn and Southern Mississippi. "To tell you the truth, I was surprised," Samuel said of the scholarship offers. "I think they (college scouts) just watched film. We played man-to-man (pass coverage) and I guess some thought I was pretty good at coming up to make the tackle."

Samuel turned in 60 tackles and caused four fumbles with his hard-hitting his senior year. And he could run a very respectable time of 4.5 in the 40-yard dash and bench press 265 pounds, good strength for a defensive back.

"The hand didn't bother me at all on defense," he said. "But on offense, it made me feel kind of unbalanced when I had the ball. I didn't think I could be effective at quarterback after I broke my hand. I wasn't at all disappointed that I couldn't play quarterback. I didn't mind moving to flanker. I just tried to help the team."

At Alabama, that continues as his goal. Samuel said he doesn't have personal goals, only a desire that the team win.

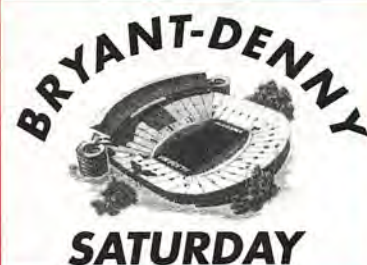
Alabama was the last school looking at Samuel to offer him a scholarship. He said he is glad that he waited. "It was a relief when Alabama offered me a scholarship," he said. "I grew up watching Alabama and I always wanted to play for them. Plus my sister (Angela Marrisett) is a 1988 Alabama graduate and my cousin (Kim Sanders) is a 1991 graduate."

Alabama played eight true freshmen in 1993 and Samuel was one of them. "It felt wonderful to come in and play my first year," said Samuel. While during the season his primary position was cornerback, he also got some work at strong safety.

He knows that his opportunity beginning this spring is at cornerback, where a permanent replacement must be found for Langham. "I'm going to try and compete to the best of my ability for a starting position," Samuel said. "I know that I've got to get a little better, a little quicker, and a little stronger. I've got to work harder in the weight room."

"I've also got to become more aware of what I'm supposed to be doing out on the field."

"When we get out on the field this spring, I've got to practice hard."



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Patience Should Be Rewarded

by John Barnes

Heralded transfer works his way back to top form

With past success comes expectations. For Alabama's Jamal Faulkner, high hopes from fans, the media, even his own teammates reached a level almost never seen before at The University of Alabama.

Prior to his first game in a Crimson Tide uniform, the hype and expectations surrounding Faulkner's arrival reached such a fever pitch, even Coach David Hobbs felt it had gone too far. "I don't see how anyone can live up to the expectations placed on Jamal," said Hobbs. "People have said he'll be the greatest player ever at the University of Alabama. With all the guys we've had in the NBA, I don't see how anyone can make a statement like that. I hate it for Jamal that those kind of expectations exist."

For the 6-7, 210-pound junior transfer, great expectations merely go with the territory. Touted as the savior of Alabama basketball, Faulkner would rather deal with high hopes than none at all. "I've been hearing the talk, reading the articles since I enrolled at Alabama," he said. "People seemed to think I would come right out and average 25 or 30 points a game. I wish I could and maybe I can at some point, but when you've been away from the game as long as I have, it takes awhile to get the kinks out. I'm still a little rusty and probably will be for some time."

Still, there is no denying that Faulkner is a gifted athlete with tremendous basketball sense. A legitimate star since his sophomore year in high school, Faulkner is used to the pressure, but is still somewhat awed by the expectations placed on his broad shoulders. To be tabbed "the best player to ever put on an Alabama uniform," is not only unfair, but premature.

Away from organized basketball for almost two years, Faulkner sees his emergence with the Alabama team as a new beginning, an opportunity to put behind him a past that has raised more than a few eyebrows in Tuscaloosa.

Prior to his senior season at Christ the King high school in Queens, New York, Faulkner was widely regarded as one of the hottest players on the east coast. A standout in New York's talent-rich Catholic high school system, Faulkner was wooed by virtually every top basketball school in the country.

In what could be described as a case of too much too soon, Faulkner began an odyssey of fantastic exploits on the court and severe lapses in judgement away from basketball. Although eventually signing with Arizona State and first-year coach Bill Frieder, it was Faulkner's dealings with the University of Pittsburgh that started his well-documented troubles and eventually landed the Panthers program on two years' probation.

With the Sun Devils, Faulkner exploded on the scene, playing at a level seldom seen by a true freshman in the Pac-10 conference. Tabbed as the greatest freshman ever at Arizona State, Faulkner averaged 15.4 points and 6.2 rebounds per game. His heroics included a 29-point outburst against a talented Arkansas team in the 1990 NCAA Tournament, the same Razorback squad which beat Alabama the following week in the NCAA Sweet Sixteen. He also chipped in 38 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks against Penn and Texas in the Arizona State Classic. His exploits earned him tournament MVP honors.

Faulkner finished the year as the leading freshman scorer in the Pac-10 and finished as the eighth-leading freshman scorer nationally behind the likes of Jamal Mashburn and Shawn Bradley. He was named Pac-10 Freshman of the Year, joining Byron Scott as the only Sun Devils to earn the honor.

From there, things began to unravel for Faulkner. Although he continued to shine on the court, leading ASU in scoring, including a 31-point outing against Washington State, his off-the-court activities were being called into question by Frieder and ASU officials. In what can only be described as an error in judgement by a young, immature person, Faulkner, along with three other ASU teammates, was charged with illegal use of a telephone credit card. The charges stemmed from more than \$13,000 in long distance bills from an ASU dorm room.

Faulkner pleaded guilty and was sentenced to community service. To make matters worse, he violated the terms of his probation and spent a short time in jail.

Faulkner's legal troubles, coupled with a subsequent altercation involving an ASU coed, sealed his fate with Frieder. He was asked to leave Arizona State. "Those were tough times; I can't deny that," said Faulkner. "My playing suffered because of it and I'm embarrassed about the whole thing. But I still have good feelings for Arizona State and the city of Phoenix. Life goes on."

After a period of soul searching, Faulkner enrolled at Alabama, talked with Hobbs and became a non-playing member of the Alabama team. His decision to attend Alabama was based on several factors, including Alabama's "fabulous winning tradition." Another factor was a summer camp

meeting with former Bama guard James Robinson. "James told me what a great place Alabama was," said Faulkner. "Plus, seeing Wimp Sanderson on TV always fired me up. Even though he's gone, I'm still very happy to be here."

The past now behind him, Faulkner looks forward to his expanded role on the team and an opportunity to help the Tide reach the NCAA Tournament.

Forced to sit out the early part of the Tide's season, Faulkner made his debut in a Crimson Tide uniform December 21 at Southern Mississippi. Faulkner is the first to admit his first game was far from his best. Still, he managed ten points in 20 minutes of playing time, including leading a furious rally down the stretch that eventually fell short. Not the start people expected, but not bad when considering his time away from the game.

"The first game was pretty frustrating," said Faulkner. "I lost a lot of the familiarity I had with the game. I'd be lying if I told you I wasn't nervous. There's no doubt I was pressing too hard. I tried too hard to impress people and lost sight of good, fundamental basketball, but that will come with time. It's going to take some time for me to get it going, but I will get it going. People will find out that Jamal Faulkner is legit."

Following Bama's loss to USM, the Tide traveled to Charleston, South Carolina for the Low Country Classic, which featured Penn State, Delaware State and the host team College of Charleston. In the Tide's opening game, an 82-44 blowout of Delaware State, Faulkner chipped in 13 points, including two three-pointers. The following night, Alabama was embarrassed by College of Charleston, 82-60. To say Faulkner was upset would be an understatement. "Losing that game was absolutely inexcusable," said Faulkner. "They looked forward to playing Alabama. They were fired up. They responded to the challenge and we did not. We didn't play well and we didn't deserve to win. I hope we learned some lessons from that."

Evidently, they did. In Faulkner's debut at Coleman Coliseum, Alabama shocked number one-ranked Arkansas 66-64, in what Faulkner hopes will be a stepping stone for the remainder of the season. Although shooting only 36 percent from the field, Bama's smothering defense held the Hogs to more than 30 points below their season average.

As was the case with the rest of the team, Faulkner's shooting was terrible, going only three of thirteen from the field. He was, however, six of eight from the free throw line and finished with 12 points. "I can't tell you how big that win was," he said. "We

knew if we played as a team, played good defense and cut down on our mistakes, we could beat anyone in the conference. I thought our interior defense was outstanding against Arkansas. We kept them from doing what they do when they blow teams out. This team is going to come together. I know the shots will eventually start falling. If we continue to play good defense, we can still have a good season."

Rebounding was a key, too, as the Tide won that category, and Faulkner had a game-high eight boards to lead Bama's effort.

A few nights later, against nationally-ranked Vanderbilt, Faulkner was even better in Bama's 73-67 upset win. The junior connected on 9 of 14 shots from the field, including 2 of 4 three-pointers, to lead the Tide with 21 points. He also chipped in nine rebounds, four assists and a blocked shot, and had only one turnover. And it was his three-pointer with 1:17 to play that put the game away.

The key word for Jamal Faulkner is patience. He must exhibit patience. The fans must exhibit patience. He will be a good player. He has too much talent not to be.

At every level, Faulkner has demonstrated the ability to control a basketball game and almost single-handedly dominate opponents. Statistics don't lie. At Christ the King, he averaged 24 points and 15 rebounds per game in a league that featured such players as Kenny Anderson and Jamal Mashburn. He led his team to the state championship. He made virtually every All-America team, including two-time *Parade* All-America honors and McDonald's All-America and *Street & Smith's* All-America following his senior season. He was voted one of the top sixteen players in the nation by both the *Big East* and ACC basketball yearbooks. He has received accolades from basketball guru Dick Vitale.

Don't expect miracles from Faulkner right away. He has been away from the game a long time and has had problems off the court that continue to haunt him.

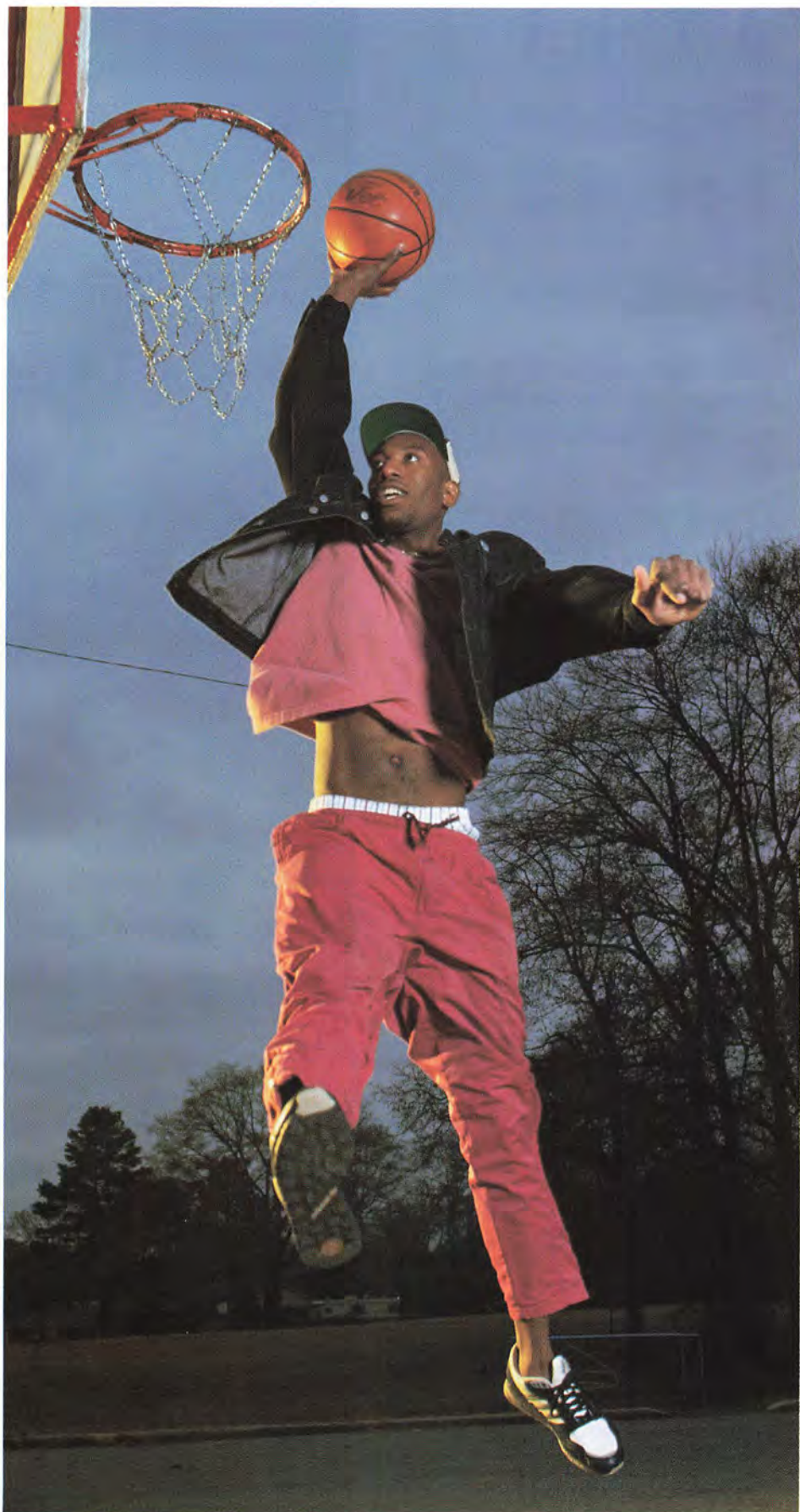
However, he is capable of great things on the basketball court. Hobbs may have said it best. "Jamal has earned his way onto this team," he said. "It says a lot about anyone who practices for an entire year and does not play in a game. He is a talented player who makes other players better. Whatever playing time he gets, he's earned."

Given time, Jamal Faulkner may very well become the type of player everyone thinks he will be. For someone who has not heard the blow of the whistle or the roar of the crowd in almost two calendar years, he's doing pretty well.

Jamal Faulkner learned his early basketball skills on the playgrounds of New York, where dozens of the nation's top performers have developed. Although he has had an abbreviated and interrupted college career, he has shown that he can be one of the nation's finest college players.

Barry Fikes Photo

FEBRUARY '94/BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide



Jon Stevenson:

A Third Position Possible

by Kirk McNair

After overcoming injuries, three-year starter may be at center for senior year

Jon Stevenson is a student-athlete, but because of injuries he had a tough time being either last semester. Stevenson, a three-year starter in the Alabama offensive line, started the first six games of 1993 at the right guard spot he had occupied the previous year, when he was a *Football News* second team Sophomore All-America. But in that sixth game, against Tennessee, Stevenson suffered a knee injury.

After missing the next three games, Stevenson assured the Alabama medical staff that he was completely well. "He lied," Bama Assistant Coach Jimmy Fuller would say later. "Jon just wanted to play so bad, he may have come back a little early." In any event, his comeback try was an aborted one as he re-injured the knee against Mississippi State. After that, he was through for the 1993 season.

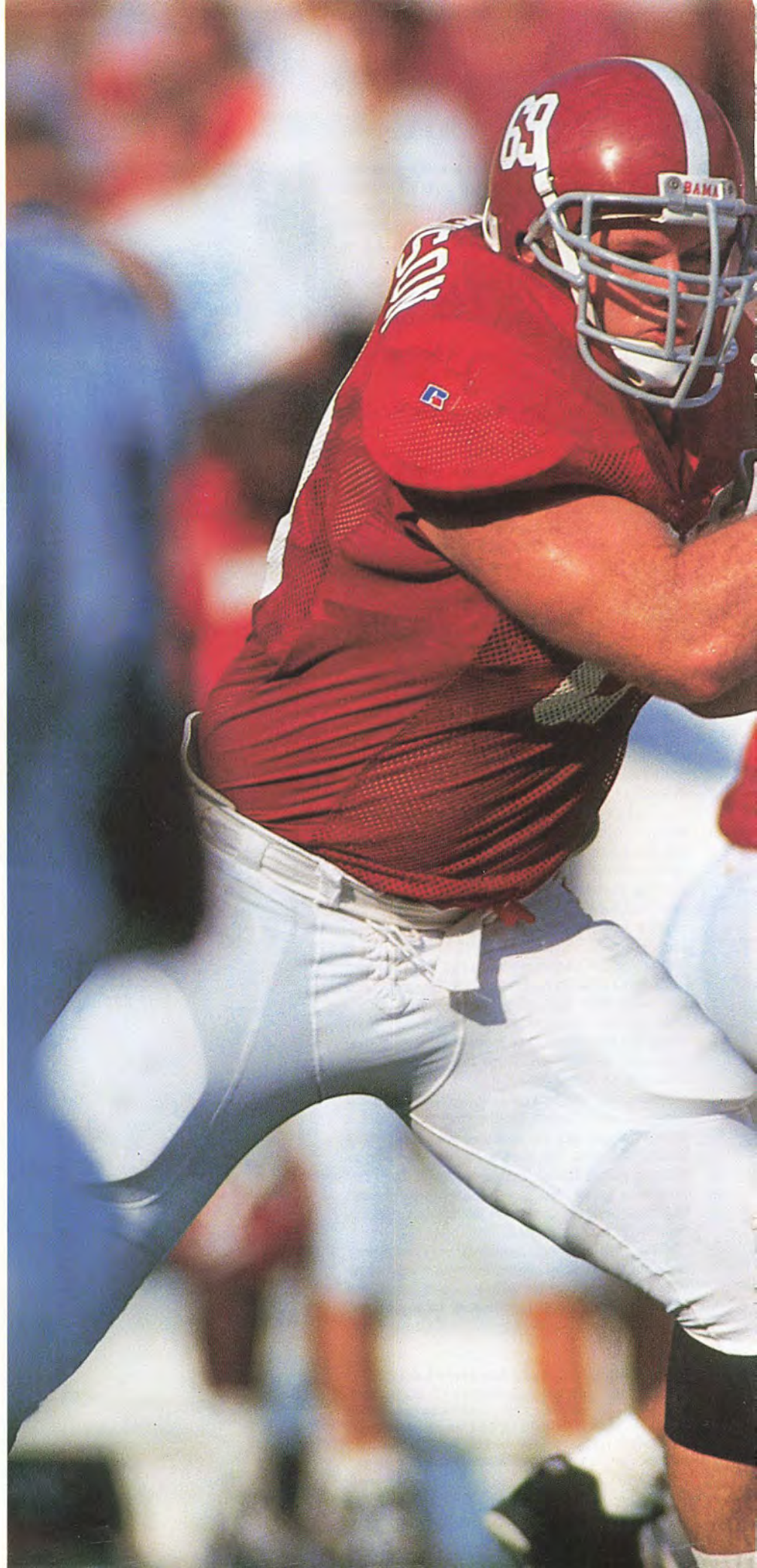
The diagnosis was a slightly torn medial collateral ligament and a stretched anterior cruciate ligament. Normal procedure, Stevenson said, is to let the knee heal naturally. He spent much of the recovery time on crutches in order to facilitate healing, which can be more difficult for a big man. And Stevenson is big, 6-3, 280.

He said the expected recovery time is "three to six weeks, so I'll be ready for spring training."

Stevenson said he wouldn't call his injuries a disappointment. "You understand in the game of football you're going to have injuries sometimes. I think the hardest thing about it is when you get injured again. That, and watching from the sidelines. You can ask (injured Tide quarterback) Jay Barker the same thing. A foot-

Jon Stevenson (69) has played beside All-SEC center Tobie Sheils (61) the past two years and believes that he has the knowledge to move to center in his senior season if that is what the Tide needs.

Barry Fikes Photo







Jon Stevenson earned honors in both his freshman and sophomore seasons, but was plagued by injuries in his third season as a starter.

Barry Fikes Photo

ball player wants to play, not watch. You don't really even want to watch practice.

"But you do your rehabilitation and try to get back as quickly as you can."

Different injuries affected him in the classroom. Saturday, December 11, a week after the Southeastern Conference Championship Game, Stevenson was in an automobile accident. Although his injuries were not life-threatening, he suffered serious facial lacerations and a concussion. "I don't remember anything about the wreck and most of the next week is fuzzy," Stevenson said. He said the doctors told him they put between 300 and

400 stitches in his face "and then they quit counting. Two plastic surgeons spent four to five hours working on me. They think that's all the facial surgery I'll need, but it will probably be about six months before they'll know for sure, they said." He has mean-looking scars in his shaving area.

"One thing it did was cause me to miss all of my final exams," Stevenson said. He had to take those when he started back in the spring semester. "Fortunately, the school has a provision for medical emergency," Stevenson said.

While the sports section is usually the most important part of a newspaper for college football players, Stevenson's fa-

vorite newspaper doesn't even have a sports section. Stevenson looks almost naked without his daily copy of the *Wall Street Journal*.

Stevenson says that he has the same aspiration as everyone who plays football at the level of an Alabama, and that's to play professional football. But he's going to have an education to fall back on. He's an investment management major.

"I'm a money grubber," he said. "I just don't have enough money to grub. But I keep up with the (stock) markets. And reading the *Journal* helps me in a lot of my classes, too."

"One day I'd like to be a portfolio manager, but it's a long way to that level. But the thought of managing big portfolios and helping people to be financially secure is exciting to me."

For now, though, the Memphis native has another goal. As an upcoming senior, he feels an increased responsibility to help Alabama's football team.

He has already been a big help to the Crimson Tide. As a freshman in 1991 he became the first true freshman to start the opening game of the season since offensive tackle Larry Rose in 1985. He started all but two games that year and earned a spot on the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* Freshman All-Southeastern Conference team.

As a sophomore in Bama's undefeated national championship season, Stevenson moved from right tackle to right guard and started all but one game. Tragically, Jon's brother, Robert, was killed in an airplane crash during that season, and Jon missed one game.

He continued at right guard last season until injuries sidelined him.

Now there is a possibility Stevenson will be at a third offensive line position for his final season. "I don't know," Stevenson said. "To be honest, I have heard some talk about me moving to center, but that's a decision that's made by Coach Stallings and the staff. If you want to know the answer to that, you'll probably need to talk to him. As far as I'm concerned, whatever the team needs."

Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings said during last season when asked about the possibility, "I'm thinking about it."

Stevenson has practiced a little at center, but never played in a game at center. Some believe that his future career in the National Football League is at center.

Stevenson thinks one advantage for Alabama of him being at center could be in the mental part of the game. The center makes the defensive read and the call for blocking assignments as the offensive line gets to the line of scrimmage. "We really don't have a person other than me with the knowledge of the offensive reads who could make the calls. Joey (Harville) couldn't do it because he's been out at tack-

le where it's a little different. Tackle is not as much knowledge as it is physical action. The more you move in from tackle to guard to center the less physical and the more mental it becomes. By being next to Tobie (Sheils) the last two years, I've got the knowledge."

However, Stevenson said he would be a different type center than Sheils, the two-time All-SEC performer and 1993 Jacobs Award winner as the top blocker in the league. "We have two completely different styles of playing," Stevenson said. "He's a lot quicker than I am, but he's also a lot smaller than I am, a lot lighter. Tobie relied on good technique and speed. The old saying is that speed kills, and Tobie proved that. He was a great player for us. I'm just a different style. I rely more on strength. Straight ahead, I'm probably as fast as Tobie. But a center has to make a lot of side-to-side moves, too, and Tobie is a lot quicker for that type move than I am. I rely more on hitting power. I'd rather make a block that rattled a guy's jaw than make a block where I just cut his feet out from under him."

Although there is a suspicion that Alabama's season might have been better had Stevenson not been hurt, he doesn't speculate in that area. "I thought the guys who took my place (primarily senior Dennis Deason and redshirt freshman Pete DiMario) did a good job," he said. But he agrees that the offensive line had been expected to be a strength of the 1993 team, and that perhaps it was not.

"If you look at the first few games, first four or five games, the offensive line was a strong point," he said. "We were giving Jay

(Barker) plenty of time to throw, we were running the ball effectively, scoring points and putting up a lot of offense. Of course we had kinks to work out, but that's going to be the case with every offensive line."

Stevenson tends to agree with the theory that an offensive line is like a five-man team within a team. If a basketball team has four of five starters returning, it won't be the same. "When you have people get hurt, it's not so much losing the player as losing the continuity," Stevenson said. "You have to start over getting used to a new player next to you, and that's difficult to do. Offensive line play is more teamwork and consistency than it is individual play. You could have one lineman who was the greatest ever to play the game, but if you've got four guys around him who can't play, he'll look like a dog. The other guys will make him look bad. On the other hand, five good players may all look great."

Stevenson believes the two key positions on the offensive line are center and left tackle. "If you have good players there and have average players at the other spots, you'll be okay," he said. "Right tackles and guards are a dime a dozen. But a good center and a good left tackle are hard to find. That's why I admire Matt Hammond so much. To start for four years in the SEC is an accomplishment; to do it at a difficult position like left tackle is amazing."

In 1993 Alabama returned four starting offensive linemen. In 1994 the Tide will return one, Jon Stevenson. Can a new line be built around one player?

"I don't think you build a line around one player," Stevenson said. "I think the key to our line next year will be if Joey

Harville and I can pull the line in. We're seniors, so it's going to be our responsibility to get the guys in the weight room together, work out together, hang out together. We have to build that continuity in the off season. It takes a lot of knowing each other, and not just on the field; in every aspect. I think the most important thing we have to do is work out together and run together and build a personality."

The weight room has always been a part of Stevenson's life. "It's very important to an offensive lineman," he said, "and it's always been big to me. I rely on strength and technique. But when the technique is bad, or at least not good enough, sometimes strength can bail you out. Because I've always been strong, I've always relied on my strength."

Stevenson has always been big, too. From the time he was in the eighth grade and began playing organized football he has been an offensive lineman. He tried defense a couple of times early in his career, "but I was never as good on defense as I was on offense." One of Stevenson's best friends and workout buddies is Shannon Brown, who was shifted from the offensive line to the defensive line early last season. "Coach (Mike) Dubose said something about moving me, but I know he was kidding."

Stevenson was even bigger when he signed with Alabama than he is now. "I was about 300, maybe 305, but now I realize my best playing weight is about 280 or 285. I've lost a lot of baby fat. Now I try to carry all good weight. I had a fat level of about 22 per cent when I got here and now it's about 12 per cent. Coach Caruthers (Strength Coach LeBaron Caruthers) has done a good job with me."



Return of a Dynasty

by
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Fall Play Has Tide Teams Optimistic

by Donna Fromme

Men don't know when Letson will return, but men and women have strengths

It was a moment off the golf course that will forever be remembered when University of Alabama Coach Dick Spybey reflects upon his Fall 1993 golf season, a Fall where his team was a mainstay among the nation's Top 20.

Just days after his Crimson Tide team had finished their Fall play, near-tragedy struck.

Greg Letson, the man who'd led Alabama's golfers all Fall with his 72.4 stroke average in four tournaments, was driving through an intersection in Tuscaloosa on November 16 when his car was struck broadside on the driver's side by an ambulance that was on an emergency run. The crash pinned Letson inside his car. According to the police reports, the ambulance driver said his hand had slipped off the controls for the siren making it a momentarily silent run through the red light. Letson never knew what hit him.

For 32 days, the junior from Florence remained hospitalized, drifting in and out of consciousness for several days. On the fourth day of his hospitalization, he began to awaken for brief periods and spoke for the first time. When the doctors asked how he was feeling when he'd finally come to, Letson said he'd "had better days." For the next month, doctors and therapists worked with Letson as he recovered from his head injury, broken pelvis, broken ribs and broken fingers. Finally, on December 18, he was released from the hospital and sent home to Florence to continue his recovery.

And, incredibly, when classes resumed on January 10, among those beginning the spring semester at The University was Letson, an Academic All-Southeastern Conference honoree who has been on Alabama's last two NCAA Championships qualifying teams. It is still too early to tell when he will return to play for the Tide, though doctors have said they believe he will make a full recovery.

"Out of nowhere we were slapped with reality in Greg Letson's car accident," Spybey said. "We were so excited for Greg because he played so wonderfully in the Fall and produced numbers that would be worthy of all-conference and possibly All-America status. And for him to sustain such a major injury obviously was such a shock to everyone. When something like that happens, it's easy to feel sorry for your-

self and for the team and for Greg, of course. But this is a part of the mental training that I try to put these young people through. And when you bring up words like 'character' and 'courage' and the 'real world,' all of us tend to realize a little bit more about what those words are all about when something like this happens.

"I certainly think the Spring's outlook changes slightly. We're losing a young man for a period of time; I don't know how long and he doesn't either. But he is bound and determined that he will be back this Spring. Until then, we are losing a talented player and an experienced player. So on the surface things may not look as bright as they would have if he was in the lineup playing at the level he was when he was playing in the Fall. But here's the time for character and courage to be put to use and every young man on this team has to step up and play at a higher level in order for us to achieve our goals."

Letson's release from the hospital made a happy bookend to Alabama's Fall which started with a celebration on the course. The Tide opened the season in Knoxville, competing among 15 teams for the title of the University of Tennessee Tournament of Champions. The team left Knoxville with the championship trophy, compliments of Marten Olander's 30-foot eagle on the final hole. Olander led Alabama's golfers with his third-place finish (73-69-72).

That was the best finish by the Tide in a fall tournament, although there was reasonable success in the premier college golf event of the fall. Alabama is host for that event, the Jerry Pate National Intercollegiate at Birmingham's Shoal Creek, and the field of 12 teams included four of the nation's top five squads. Alabama finished seventh and Letson was medalist with an opening round 68. Other Tide finishes were sixth in the rain-shortened Dixie Intercollegiate in Columbus, Georgia, and 12th in the *GolfWorld*/Palmetto Dunes Collegiate at Hilton Head, South Carolina, a tournament that featured nine of *GolfWorld's* top 10 teams.

Olander was in one other tournament, invited to El Paso to play among the elite at the John Hancock All-American Collegiate Invitational. He was one of 24 golfers invited in the field that brings together the returning All-Americans and the players believed to be the best in collegiate golf. Olander, a pre-season All-America, shot 76-78-74.

The beauty of the Fall season was that even though Letson and Olander were usually Alabama's top finishers, Spybey also saw powerful rounds emerge from each of his players. Sophomore Mayson Petty shot

68 in the second round in Knoxville. Senior Scott Taylor shot 70 in his final round at the Jerry Pate. And one golfer, Hank Smith, a senior whose previous performances hadn't merited a spot on the team, not only earned his spot back in the pre-season qualifiers but ended up making Alabama's playing five in all four tournament appearances and his scores were counted toward the team total in 10 of the 11 rounds he played, making his comeback the success story of the Fall.

"I was very satisfied with the Fall effort," Spybey said. "I felt like it was important to get off to a good start this year because last year we did not do that. I challenged the guys over the summer to come back ready to play, and overall they did come back ready. We started out in great fashion with the win at Tennessee and some strong and respectable finishes in our three other tournament appearances. We would have liked to have finished higher in our final Fall tournament at Hilton Head, but our finish was really not bad considering the strength of the field and that one or two strokes would have made the difference. Overall, our Fall was satisfying. The guys had a sense of accomplishment. We're eagerly awaiting the spring season.

"As the team knows, I have a lot of confidence in them and feel like we've got a lot of talent. We need to take this tragic incident and somehow turn this into a positive and move on. And then when Greg does get ready to get into the lineup again, that will be the last piece of icing on the cake to make this year a memorable one."

The men return to practice on February 1 to begin preparation for the Spring season which begins in Gainesville, Florida, at the February 19-20 Gator Invitational. Six regular season tournaments, including the SEC Championships, await the Tide which will likely make the field for the NCAA East Regional in May and, as it has done in the past two seasons, the June NCAA Championships. Alabama will host the annual Southeastern Invitational at Montgomery's Lagoon Park March 25-27.

Four was also the magic number of tournaments Betty Palmer's Alabama women participated in, producing impact finishes immediately as well.

In coach's dream fashion, Palmer returned to the 1993-94 season with her lineup intact. Led by second team All-SEC golfer Jill Donaldson, Palmer's squad this year includes four impact seniors, all of whom had accumulated playing time going into their final season.

And it's those players whom Palmer says are the meter to how successful her entire

squad will perform this Spring.

"Jill Donaldson had a tremendous Fall. She's ranked 70th in the country, and, when you look at how many hundreds of golf programs there are out there, that's quite an accomplishment," said Palmer of the junior who has a 76.9 stroke average—three strokes lower than any of her teammates. "She's still got a ways to go. But her play has been outstanding. Jill finished second at the Florida State Lady Seminole, and then followed with all top 20 finishes.

"Our kids did great academically this Fall, eight of nine made about a 3.0 and two, Paige Hoefle and Carrie Allen, made 4.0. I use academics as a touchstone because of the kind of discipline it takes to accomplish that kind of success in the classroom. That gives me a gauge because I believe it reflects how disciplined they are on the course as well. I can tell that they are going to continue to work hard and to play hard. I've got three seniors who are ready to have as good a final semester as they are going to have. As for the others, Jill is playing great, and our freshmen, Johanna Sward, Stacy Buersmeyer and Julie Pelchar as well as sophomore Meg Lindsey's work has been just tremendous."

The first day back on the job last Fall, the Tide showed little rust from the summer as it went into the clubhouse with the lead in the FSU Lady Seminole Invitational after firing a season-low 298. The team ended the tournament, with its field of 15 teams, in fourth place.

But it was in its second tournament that the team really clicked. Bama took second place in the 16-team Memphis Women's Intercollegiate Championships. Three Tide golfers finished among the top 10 with Tina Kjellen finishing fifth, and Allen and Hoefle finishing in a tie for eighth place.

The Bama women were 10th in the rain-shortened and otherwise weather-plagued Tiger-Tide Intercollegiate at Destin, Florida, and eighth in its Fall finale at the Cudone Invitational hosted by Coastal Carolina at the Dunes Golf & Beach Club in Myrtle Beach. Bama was hampered by the loss of its third lowest scorer, Tina Kjellen, who was stricken with a virus that knocked her out of the second and third rounds. She has recovered.

"The Fall had a division point," said Palmer. "We started out playing well in our first two tournaments with second and fourth place finishes. We entered the Tiger-Tide not as prepared as I thought we were, so that was a learning situation. And in our final tournament at Myrtle Beach, not only were we playing on a course that was quite challenging, but the tournament turned out to be a challenge in itself in that we were forced to play with just four people when Tina became ill. It forced the other four to play to count the final two rounds. It's hard when you put just four people to play because there is more pressure. You don't



Leading the Alabama golf fortunes this year are expected to be Jill Donaldson for the women and Marten Olander for the men.

Barry Fikes Photo

have the one score you can throw out if someone happens to have a bad round."

The women, who also begin practicing again at the NCAA's allowable early February start, will open their Spring season in Monterey, California, March 4-6 at the San Jose/Jostens Invitational. Five regular season tournaments, including the SEC Championships in West Point, Mississippi, await the women. The Regional Qualifying tournament for the top teams in Alabama's region will be held in Michigan on May 12-14, and qualifiers from there will travel to

Portland, Oregon, for the May 25-28 NCAA Championships.

"I'm optimistic and excited about our Spring season," said Palmer. "I'm ready to get going. Right now I just wish we could get going earlier. The kids are going to be really anxious by that point. But once we start up in March, things will move quickly because we have one tournament after another. They're going to work hard, rain or shine, and that's a comforting feeling going into the Spring season. These kids are disciplined and ready to play."

Tide Hopes 1994 Season A Big Hit

by John Barnes

**Shollenberger has hopes
batting improves, thinks
pitching will be solid again**

Ask Barry Shollenberger about Alabama's 1993 season and you may hear a little more than you bargained for. What began as a promising start for the Tide quickly turned into a coach's nightmare. In Bama's season opener at South Alabama, the Tide dropped a 4-3 decision to the Jaguars, but responded the following day with a 21-run outburst, defeating USA 21-6.

Bama returned to the friendly confines of Sewell-Thomas Stadium, proceeded to lose five of its next eight games and set the tone for the rest of the season. "To say last season was a major disappointment would be the understatement of the year," said Shollenberger. "I thought our pitching

throughout the year was good enough to win a few more ball games, but we just didn't come through at the plate. When your leading hitter is a pitcher, you're in trouble."

Left-handed pitcher Al Drumheller led the team with a .323 batting average. He also led the team in runs batted in (38) and tied for the lead in home runs (8). On the mound, Drumheller posted a team-best 9-4 record with a respectable 4.22 earned run average. He elected to forego his final season of eligibility to enter the professional draft, and so Shollenberger must find a way to replace one of the most versatile players in Alabama history.

Although Drumheller's heroics are well documented, the remainder of the Tide offense failed to live up to its billing. Once-steady hitters Brad Oliver and Frank Menechino failed to crack the .300 plateau. In fact, the only other Tider to hit above .300 was senior first baseman Chris Smelley, who finished with a .319 average, exceeding Shollenberger's expectations, but bringing into focus the remainder of the lineup's lack of offensive punch.

"If someone had told me before last season that Drumheller and Smelley would be our leading hitters, I would have thought they were crazy," said Shollenberger. "We had a number of guys that were proven hitters against SEC pitching. They just didn't come through for us. Every team needs someone to step forward and be a leader, a 'bell cow' of sorts. We just didn't have that last year and it really hurt us."

In addition to losing Drumheller, Menechino and Oliver, Bama must replace steady left fielder Jeff Laubenthal (.289, 6 HR, 30 RBI) and third baseman Jerry Shelton. Shelton proved to be the Tide version of former major leaguer Ron Hunt, being struck by an NCAA record 52 pitches in his career.

All is not gloom and doom in Tideland, however. Shollenberger is his usual optimistic self, extolling the virtues of what could be the best pitching staff in many years at The Capstone. No doubt, the loss of Drumheller will hurt, but the Tide re-



Alabama baseball fortunes, like those of teams at almost every level, are in great part dependent upon pitching. Alabama's veteran pitching staff includes (left to right): Front-Jerry Stuffs, Bernie Bellard and Derius Lewis; and, Back-Mike MacDonald and Steve Shoemaker.

Barry Fikes Photo

turns proven hurlers in right-handers Bernie Bellard (3-6, 3.82 ERA), Steve Shoemaker (3-3, 3.94 ERA) and Mike MacDonald (3-2, 3.64 ERA, 8 Saves).

What truly excites Shollenberger is a talented crop of newcomers who have the potential to give the Tide staff a much-needed boost in depth. "We've got some good young arms coming in," said Shollenberger. "These kids have a great deal of ability and will hopefully give us what we are sorely in need of: left-handed pitching." As is the case with most schools, solid left-handed pitching is becoming an increasingly rare commodity.

Among Bama's promising newcomers on the mound are right-hander Chris Eilers of Huntsville. Recipient of the Golden Diamond Junior Baseball Award, presented annually to the top prep player in Alabama, Eilers has a strong arm and solid control. He has the potential to be a mainstay in the Tide rotation. In addition, 6-5, 225-pound left-hander Steve Breland, a junior college transfer from Panama City, Florida, should give the Tide some left-handed power pitching. True freshman lefty Roger Cainzos from Miami should add a little versatility on the mound.

In addition to Bellard, Shoemaker and MacDonald, the rest of the Tide rotation should be filled by senior righties Jerry Stubbs (4-1, 5.87 ERA) and Derius Lewis (1-0, 2.08 ERA). "I call these kids 'the big five,'" said Shollenberger. "They've proven themselves against SEC competition and should be the heart of our staff this year."

Also looking to make a contribution on the mound this year are sophomores Joel Colgrove and John Collins, redshirt freshman Pete Demorejon and junior Neal Lamb. Shoemaker should serve as the Tide's closer and is one of the top returning relief men in the SEC. Senior Chris Elder, coming off arm surgery, and redshirt freshman Jason Williams round out the Tide staff.

As for position players, Bama loses three of its four starting infielders from 1993. The lone returner is shortstop Brett Taft (.257, 3 HR, 23 RBI). A solid glove man, Taft is one of the SEC's top returning shortstops, posting an impressive .930 fielding percentage in 1993.

At first base, junior transfer Jason Jordan is the probable starter. Jordan turned down the University of Miami to attend Alabama and could give the Tide batting power from the first base position. Redshirt freshman Scott Weil should get some playing time at first and has solid left-handed power.

At second base, the number one player coming out of fall practice is senior Eddie Generelli. Don't be surprised to see true freshman Joe Caruso and junior transfer Robbie Hayduk log some playing time as the season progresses. Defensively, Shollenberger rates the three about even. Who gets the majority of playing time will be determined by performance at the plate.

Third base is of major concern for



Brett Taft is the lone returning starting infielder from 1993 for the Alabama baseball team this year. He is a good fielder and adequate hitter.

University of Alabama Photo/Kent Gidley

Shollenberger. In a league dominated by right-handed pull hitters, the hot corner is considered by many as the most difficult position in college baseball. Junior Dan Jenkins

emerged from fall practice as the leading candidate, but Shollenberger was less than happy with his performance. Junior transfer Kevin Nichols is a possibility, but has not



Barry Shollenberger

demonstrated an ability to hit SEC-caliber pitching. "I wake up every morning worrying about third," said Shollenberger. "At this point, I just can't say who it will be. It may be Nichols or Jenkins. It may be Caruso or Hayduk. I probably won't know until opening day."

One position where the Tide seems solid is catcher. Bama returns both Alan Hill and Geno Saunders. The two split playing time about equally in 1993 and give Bama good depth at the position. Neither has demonstrated much prowess at the plate, both hovering around the .200 mark last season. Again, the better hitter should get the majority of playing time.

In the outfield, the potential is there for a number of players to step forward and make a contribution. The only certain starter is senior left fielder Brad Daggett. A two-year letterman, Daggett is one of the more experienced players on the Tide team. Although never quite being able to turn the corner offensively, Shollenberger is looking to Daggett for experience and senior leadership.

A number of other players could vie for playing time in the outfield. They include senior Anthony Box, sophomore Todd Nodine, Caruso, Weil and junior transfer Ted Wroblewski. Shollenberger is also looking for big things from junior transfer Pug Wood. "Pug Wood has tremendous potential," said Shollenberger. "He wasn't here in the fall, so I really don't know what to expect, but he could be a great one."

Alabama's 1994 schedule is one of the more interesting in school history. Bama opens the season in the Louisiana Superdome in the Winn-Dixie Showdown with dates against New Orleans, Tulane and LSU. The schedule also includes a three-game set with Notre Dame in Tuscaloosa, as

well as two games with Big Ten power Michigan State (rescheduled from last year's snowstorm).

One interesting aspect of this year's schedule is the SEC deciding to play three single games each weekend—games Friday, Saturday and Sunday—rather than the traditional Saturday doubleheader and Sunday single game.

If Bama is to improve on last year's 27-25 record, it must find success at the plate. Bama finished dead last in hitting in the SEC

for 1993. "There is no doubt we must hit the ball," said Shollenberger. "No matter how good your pitching is, when you only have two guys on the team hitting over .300, you're in trouble."

The Tide's pitching should be good enough to win 35-plus ball games. If Bama comes through at the plate, and Shollenberger thinks they will, don't be surprised to see the Tide challenge SEC West powers LSU and Mississippi State for the league crown.

1994 Alabama Baseball Roster

No.	Name, Pos.	B-T	Hgt.	Wgt.	Cl-Exp.	Hometown
1	Brett Taft, if	R-R	5-8	165	So-1L	Hueytown
2	Anthony Dubose, of	R-R	5-11	175	Jr-Tr	Panama City, Fla.
3	Eddie Generelli, if	R-R	5-10	175	Sr-1L	Worcester, Mass.
4	Corey Milewski, of	L-R	5-10	175	So-1L	Milford, Conn.
5	Joe Caruso, if	R-R	5-9	180	Fr-HS	Lock Haven, Pa.
6	Robbie Hayduk, if	R-R	5-11	170	Jr-Tr	Miami
7	Scott Hughen, if	R-R	6-1	170	Fr-RS	Tuscaloosa
8	Geno Saunders, c	R-R	6-1	190	Sr-2L	Miami
9	Shane Watts, of	R-R	6-2	200	Fr-HS	Gadsden
10	Ted Wroblewski, if	L-R	6-2	215	Jr-Tr	Midland, Mich.
11	Todd Nodine, of	R-L	5-10	165	So-1L	Tuscaloosa
12	Jason Jordan, if	R-R	6-3	210	Jr-Tr	Montgomery
13	Chris Milewski, p	R-R	5-10	170	So-RS	Milford, Conn.
14	Drake Warren, c	R-R	6-0	210	So-Sq	Tuscaloosa
15	David Ray, c	R-R	5-11	185	Fr-HS	Anniston
16	Anthony Box, of	R-R	6-1	180	Sr-1L	Brookwood
17	Derius Lewis, p	R-R	5-10	170	Sr-1L	Troy
18	Chad Elder, p	R-R	6-1	195	Sr-RS	Jacksonville, Fla.
19	Dan Jenkins, if	R-R	6-2	215	Jr-RS	Soddy Daisy, Tenn.
21	Fernando Rodriguez, p	R-R	5-11	165	Fr-HS	Miami
22	Brad Daggett, of	L-L	6-2	200	Sr-2L	Devon, Pa.
24	Chris Eilers, p	R-R	6-0	185	Fr-HS	Huntsville
26	Neal Lamb, p	R-R	6-2	210	Jr-HS	Tuscaloosa
27	Bernie Bellard, p	R-R	6-0	185	Sr-1L	Lafayette, La.
28	Steve Shoemaker, p	L-R	6-1	185	Jr-2L	Phoenixville, Pa.
29	Alan Hill, c	R-R	6-3	210	Jr-2L	Mobile
30	Mike MacDonald, p	R-R	6-0	180	Sr-1L	Miami, Fla.
31	Jerry Stubbs, p	R-R	6-2	175	Sr-1L	Hutchinson, Pa.
32	Pug Wood, of	L-L	6-0	215	Jr-Tr	Knoxville, Tenn.
34	Joel Franks, p	L-R	6-2	210	R-HS	Midlothian, Va.
35	Scott Weil, if	L-R	6-3	225	Fr-RS	Hollywood, Fla.
36	Joel Colgrove, p	R-R	6-5	220	So-1L	Boligee
37	John Collins, p	R-R	6-5	225	So-1L	Alabaster
38	Steve Breland, p	L-L	6-5	225	Jr-Tr	Panama City, Fla.
39	Roger Cainzos, p	L-L	6-0	185	Fr-HS	Miami, Fla.
40	Scott Hickox, p	R-R	5-11	170	Jr--Tr	Miami, Fla.
42	Pete Demorejon, p	R-R	6-1	170	Fr-RS	Miami, Fla.
43	Lance McAlindon, p	L-L	5-11	170	Jr-Sq	Nashville, Tenn.
44	Ben Gibbons, of	S-R	5-8	160	So-Tr	Ashville, Pa.
45	Casey Woodall, c	R-R	6-0	185	Jr-Tr	Winchester, Tenn.
46	Kevin Nichols, if	R-R	5-10	180	Jr-Tr	Panama City, Fla.
46	Jason Williams, p	R-R	6-1	200	Fr-RS	Tuscaloosa
47	Drew Bounds, of	L-L	6-0	200	Fr-HS	West Point, Miss.
48	Rick Detoto, p	R-R	5-11	185	Jr-Sq	Miami, Fla.

Defense Helps Bama Turn Corner

by Kirk McNair

Shooting must improve for Bama to be consistent

What is it that makes this Alabama basketball team so unpredictable? It is a team that seems to win the games it could reasonably be expected to lose and lose the games it could reasonably be expected to win. And its dramatic victories punctuate the futility of its losses.

For most of the year it has been the gang that couldn't shoot straight, then in one of its upsets—a 71-67 decision over LSU in Baton Rouge—the Tide hit 56 per cent of its shots. Granted, LSU—like another major upset victim, Arkansas—may have played into Alabama's hands by sticking to a man-to-man defense. Teams like the College of Charleston, South Carolina and Ole Miss were winners over Alabama because they stuck to a zone defense and dared Alabama's outside shooters to do what they rarely do: make long-range baskets.

The pre-season assessment of Coach David Hobbs' second Alabama team was that it would be a very good one this year, a great one next year. And there was reason to believe it could get ahead of schedule and be one of the nation's real surprise teams in 1994. Early surprises were horrible, but it may be that Alabama has turned the corner.

The pre-season assessment was based on too many unknowns. Jamal Faulkner was an exceptional basketball player at Arizona State in 1991 and 1992 and in practice at Alabama last year as he sat out a transfer season. But while he does show signs from time-to-time of being a very good offensive basketball player, he doesn't have an "S" on the shirt under that crimson and white basketball jersey. And "D," as in defense, doesn't appear to be part of his alphabet.

Freshman Antonio McDyess was thought to be a truly a special player, and there are games when he is. But the most important word in this paragraph is the first one: Freshman. McDyess is particularly plagued by the typical freshman problem, foul trouble. And when he gets two quick fouls in the first half or a quick third foul in the second half, it's tantamount to him fouling out, because he earns a seat on the bench.

Roy Rogers appeared to be the logical back-up center, but the big sophomore has chronic knee problems, limiting his playing time. There's also an indication that Hobbs is not happy with Alabama's defensive match-ups with Rogers in the game. And there is no hiding Rogers' offensive limitations.

Wade Kaiser has done well in his limited appearances, but they have come primarily in mop-up roles, not in the heat of battle. (An exception, a very key play by Kaiser late in

the first half of the win over Arkansas.)

The result has been two men who would seem to be effective on the floor together—Faulkner and McDyess—actually alternating time. A front line of those two plus Jason Caffey would be one most would be happy to go to war with, but as of late it's hard to argue with the use of the three in a rotation in which usually two are on the floor together.

Although he seems to be 100 per cent now, Jason Caffey's slow recovery from a leg ailment was a factor in early Crimson Tide struggles. In late wins he has looked like an all-star.

Artie Griffin, a junior college transfer wing guard, came to Alabama with a reported shooting percentage of 50 per cent from the field and from three-point range. Griffin has a lot of good qualities, but he has the worst-looking shot at Alabama's since Alvin Lee was flinging them up in the late 1980s. There's no question that soph Bryan Passink has improved as an outside shooter, but in order for him to be effective the defense has to forget about him. But overall, both are real hustlers who are making good things happen.

At point guard, the expectation was that a sophomore Marvin Orange would be a lot more effective than he had been as a freshman. Orange, who many believe would be more suited to the wing guard spot, has struggled against tough defense. The position was further hurt when junior college transfer Terrance Bethel, the only true point guard, missed about half of the first dozen games of the season to return to his home in New York because of his mother's illness. His return should help the position in part because it gives Orange a break to settle down when things go bad.

Wing player Anthony Brown finished strong last year as a freshman and looked good in exhibition games this year, but seems unsure of himself.

No one can fault the effort of the Tide's two blue collar players, seniors Walter Pitts, who has been effective defensively, and Shon Peck-Love, but no one expects them to continue Alabama's pipeline to the National Basketball Association.

Bama's other scholarshiped player, freshman wing player Eric Washington, is going to be a fine player, but he's having trouble getting much playing time in a very broad-based rotation.

No bad-shooting team ever looked good. When a team is prone to turnovers, as a team with poor ball-handling guards frequently is, it does not look good. When it is the offensive plan to try to work the ball inside, and the opponent plays a tightly-packed zone defense, many passes are going to be unsuccessful.

Add to that the basic Alabama offense, which is a version of the motion offense, but



No one can fault the effort of the 1994 Alabama basketball team, but the Crimson Tide has to do something to improve its shooting. High percentage shots work for senior forward Shon Peck-Love.

University of Alabama Photo

which when run by Bama's players has looked like a Rube Goldberg machine much of the time. The motion offense requires patience by the players, something not learned easily or quickly.

One of the watchwords of Alabama basketball for a couple of decades has been "Defense." At least since the 1970s a regular bromide has been that even on those nights when the shooting is not good, the team that plays good defense and gets on the boards will have a chance to win.

Alabama does show good defensive intensity when it is in its man-to-man defense.

And Alabama does have men capable of getting rebounds, notably Caffey and McDyess, but also Faulkner.

But if Alabama shooting does not improve, it will be hard for Alabama to win consistently.

BAMA SCORECARD

Spring Training

Alabama's spring football practice will begin March 10 and conclude with the A-Day Game on April 16. Current NCAA regulations allow 15 days of practice (including the spring game) with five of those practices non-contact.

Spring break at The University once again comes during spring training, so the Tide will end its work after practice on March 24 and resume on April 4.

Royal And Brown

Two Alabama outside linebackers, André Royal and Will Brown, were suspended indefinitely from the Alabama football team following the Auburn game for unspecified violations of team rules. Neither has been a part of the team since, missing both the Southeastern Conference Championship Game and the Gator Bowl.

While Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings has never said that he would or would not revoke the suspensions, the feeling had been that the two would not be allowed to return. A tentative spring football roster issued by the athletics department did not include either.

However, Stallings has only to look at giving David Palmer the extra chance to see how important football can be to players. Had Stallings suspended Palmer a couple of years ago, Palmer would not now be preparing to sign a nice contract to play professional football.

Although Royal has had more than one chance already, he is considered a legitimate professional football prospect.

Although there has been no announcement regarding Royal and Brown, odds now favor their return to the team, almost certainly on some conditional basis.

Incidentally, although Brown is from New York, his younger brother moved to Tuscaloosa last year and is a very fine upcoming senior football player at Tuscaloosa Central.

Football Awards

Alabama's 1994 football awards banquet was quite a bit different than the sold-out Coleman Coliseum extravaganza following the 1992 season, when Bama won the national championship.

However, the awards presented were similar. Bama's captains, Chris Anderson, Lemanski Hall, Antonio Langham and Tobie Sheils were among the 32 seniors honored. Sheils was also presented the Jacobs Award, presented to the best blocker in the Southeastern Conference based on a vote of all the SEC assistant coaches. He was also presented the Pat Trammell Award, named for the former Tide quarterback and given by the Jefferson County Alumni Association to the team's outstanding leader, and named the Birmingham Monday Morning Quarterback Club Outstanding Lineman in the SEC.

Placekicker Matt Wethington received the

President's Award for having the highest cumulative grade point average on the team.

The Seniors

Although a few of them still have eligibility remaining, the 1993 football season was the last for at least 33 Alabama football players: junior David Palmer, who elected to make himself available for the National Football League draft this year, and 32 players designated as seniors.

The seniors honored at this year's football banquet are:

J. J. Adams, Chris Anderson, William Barger, Jay Brannen, John Clay, Lorenzo Cole, Dennis Deason, Chris Donnelly, Randy Gartman, Chad Gladden, James Gregory, Lemanski Hall, Matt Hammond, Michael Hoven, John Hutt, Jason Jack, Greg Laney, Antonio Langham, Kirk Lawson, Kevin Lee, Jackson Lowery, Jason Milner, Marcus Moring, Mario Morris, Scott Mullenix, Jeremy Nunley, Roosevelt Patterson, Matthew Pine, Tobie Sheils, Harold Swopes, DeLan Trimble and Thad Turnipseed.

Draft Choices

There is little doubt that two members of the 1993 Alabama football team will be first round draft choices when the National Football League teams make their picks in a few months. Cornerback Antonio Langham and flanker David Palmer are both projected to go early.

Last year Alabama provided three first-round draft choices—defensive ends Eric Curry and John Copeland and cornerback George Teague—as well as three others—running back Derrick Lassic and linebackers Derrick Oden and Antonio London.

There probably won't be three first-round choices from Bama this year, but there is a chance that defensive linemen Jeremy Nunley and James Gregory, linebacker Lemanski Hall, wide receiver Kevin Lee and center Tobie Sheils will be selected in the draft.

And the pro draft watchers are saying the first running back taken may be a former Alabama running back. Irving Spikes began his college football career at Alabama in 1990 (after sitting out a year for academics). However, the Ocean Springs, Mississippi, native was never better than third on the Tide depth chart, behind the likes of Siran Stacy and Derrick Lassic, so he transferred to Northeast Louisiana, where the 5-8, 213-pounder rushed for over 1,500 yards this past season.

Gamecocks' Connections

The new South Carolina football coaching staff of Brad Scott has a couple of Alabama connections. Scott, who went to South Carolina from Florida State, brought along FSU's inside linebackers coach to be his defensive coordinator. Wally Burnham coached at FSU for nine years. Burnham, a native of Pell City, was on Alabama's 1960 and 1961 Crimson Tide football teams before finishing

his career as a Little All-America linebacker.

Another new defensive coach for the Gamecocks is Bobby Johns, a two-time All-America defensive back for Bama. Johns, who was All-Southeastern Conference all three of his seasons (1965-67) and team captain, had been coaching the secondary at Eastern Kentucky. He's a native of Birmingham.

The Other Alabama

A couple of years ago one of the hot recruiting battles was for the state of Alabama's Mr. Football, running back Robert Davis of Homewood. LSU won that battle and Davis had initial success for the Bengal Tigers, leading LSU in rushing as a freshman in 1992. However, last fall Davis was relegated to about fourth team, and elected to leave LSU after the season. It was announced he would transfer to Alabama.

However, after Davis talked to Alabama coaches, who reportedly told him he was welcomed to enter The University and try out for the football team as a walk-on, he elected to accept a scholarship from Alabama-Birmingham. Because Alabama-Birmingham is not a Division 1A program, he will be eligible to play next fall. Had he transferred to a major school he would have had to sit out a year.

Boswell Honored

Charley Boswell of Birmingham became the 27th recipient of the Tuss McLaughry Award, presented by the American Football Coaches Association at their annual convention in Anaheim, California, in January.

Boswell, 77, was an outstanding football player for the Crimson Tide, but earned his worldwide athletics reputation in golf. After being blinded in heroic action during World War II, Boswell took up a game he had never played while sighted: golf. He became the finest blind golfer in the world, winning 17 national championships and 11 international titles.

However, the McLaughry Award is not given for athletics accomplishment. Boswell, who joined four former Presidents (Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Reagan), the late General Douglas MacArthur and John Wayne, and former Dallas Cowboys Coach Tom Landry among others in this exclusive company, was honored for his decades of public service and philanthropy.

Hall Of Famer

Former Alabama All-America Ozzie Newsome has been selected for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame. Two years ago Newsome was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and it's just a matter of time until he completes the circuit with induction into the Professional Football Hall of Fame.

Newsome was not only one of Alabama's all-time greatest players (selected to the Alabama Team of the Century last year and a runaway choice as the outstanding player of

the 1970s in voting by 'BAMA readers in 1980), he was also one of the most popular. He is a scout and assistant coach for the Cleveland Browns, where he also set numerous records in his pro career.

Playing on wishbone teams, Newsome caught 102 passes for a school record 2,070 yards and set a Southeastern Conference record with an average of 20.3 yards per catch. He had 16 touchdown receptions and Bama had a four-year record of 42-6, winning SEC titles three of those seasons.

Induction into the College Football Hall of Fame will be December 6 in New York.

ASHOF Inductions

Two former Alabama centers and a former Tide golfer will be among those inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame at this year's banquet. Former Tide All-America football players Paul Crane and Dwight Stephenson and former golfer Jerry Pate are among those in the 26th ASHOF class.

The banquet will be February 26 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center. For ticket information contact the ASHOF at the museum in the civic center or call (205) 323-6665.

Another Hall Of Famer

Alabama Head Track and Field Coach Doug Williamson has been inducted into the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame. Williamson, Alabama's head coach for the past eight years, was a unanimous selection for the honor. Williamson is a graduate of Northwestern and began his coaching career at Lockport (Illinois) Central High School.

Academic All-America

Junior Malin Ohlund, a native of Lulea, Sweden, and a top performer for the Alabama women's cross country and track teams, was named to the coaches' cross country Academic All-America team this season. She has a 3.59 grade point average in international studies and was an All-SEC performer.

Nominated For Naismith

Niesa Johnson, the junior guard who has sparked the Alabama women's basketball team to national prominence, has been nominated for the Naismith College Player of the Year Award. Johnson is one of ten national candidates for the award given to the top female basketball player in the nation as selected by the U.S. Basketball Writers' Association, which includes men's and women's head coaches and members of the media.

Johnson is well aware of the competition. She has played on the USA Basketball Junior National Team with four other nominees.

Johnson was All-SEC as a sophomore as she led the league in steals and assists and is a consensus preseason All-America.

The award is presented by the Atlanta Tip-Off Club and the winner will be announced in a live national television broadcast on CBS on March 27.

Tide Suffers Loss

Shondra Fuller, a 6-0 sophomore forward on the Alabama women's basketball team, has been lost for the season. The Decatur High

School graduate suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee during practice and under went surgery.

A year ago Fuller missed about three weeks of the season with a stress fracture in her leg.

Although she was primarily a top substitute on this year's nationally-ranked Bama women's team, she had started one game.

Record Breakers

When the Alabama women's basketball team defeated Troy State, 119-43, it was the largest margin of victory—76 points—in the history of the Crimson Tide women's program.

Bianchi Pulls A Palmer

The Alabama men's tennis team will be without the services of All-America and preseason Top 10-ranked player Juan Carlos Bianchi. Bianchi, who turned 24 on January 22, has decided to remain in his home country of Venezuela and pursue his professional career.

His loss is a significant one to the Tide team as his play helped propel Alabama to the NCAA quarterfinals last year. But his departure is understandable. At 24, he is actually getting a late start on a professional career. And while he had only one year of tennis eligibility remaining at Alabama, he had perhaps another year of academic work to earn his degree.

Meanwhile, his All-America doubles partner from last year, Rick Witsken, has also begun his professional tennis career. Witsken, a two-time All-America who earned his degree in December, is headed to Mexico to begin the professional tennis circuit.

Tennis Rankings

In the latest collegiate tennis rankings, the Alabama men's tennis team of Coach John Kreis is ranked 11th in the nation following fall competition. The Tide finished with a 19-5 record last spring and made the NCAA quarterfinals. Senior Cecil Brandon is ranked 40th in singles.

The Alabama women, who will be playing for a new coach this year, Jim Tresslor, just missed the Top 25 rankings, finishing 27th.

The next ratings will be at the end of February.

Soccer Has Assistant

Alabama has a head soccer coach, Don Staley, and now the Crimson Tide has an assistant coach. Karen McGrath, who was a four-year letterman for Staley at Radford in Virginia, has joined the new Bama coach of the newest Alabama sport as a full time assistant coach. She had previously served as a volunteer coach at Maryland.

The Crimson Tide expects to have a women's soccer team on the field next fall. While most of the focus on recruiting these days in Tuscaloosa is on football, Staley reportedly had a dozen prospects on campus for official visits in January. He also planned to have an open tryout on campus in late January.

Staley expects to have a squad of 22 and a travel squad of 18.

Swim Success

Swimming is one of those college sports where recruiters frequently have to recruit world-wide in order to be competitive. While the state of Alabama has excellent athletes playing football and basketball, there are very few high school swimming programs.

But Alabama Head Coach Jonty Skinner didn't have to leave the county to get one of the most successful swimmers in Crimson Tide history.

Travis Myers of Northport was Alabama's most valuable performer as a sophomore and junior. As a senior he is one of the nation's fastest in his specialty, the 100 breaststroke. And he is the fastest swimmer in the Southeastern Conference in three events—50 freestyle and 100 and 200 breaststroke.

Midway through January Myers had turned in nine dual meet victories plus three wins in the Tide's Rammer Jammer Invitational. He has 33 career victories. He has not lost in the 100 breaststroke in a dual meet in his college career.

Myers has the top time for Alabama in five events this year, is in the all-time Alabama top 10 in three events, and is a member of two record-setting relay teams.

1994 Alabama Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site
Sept. 3	Tennessee-Chattanooga	Birmingham
Sept. 10	Vanderbilt	Tuscaloosa
Sept. 17	Arkansas	Fayetteville
Sept. 24	Tulane	Birmingham
Oct. 1	Georgia	Tuscaloosa
Oct. 8	Southern Miss	Tuscaloosa
Oct. 15	Tennessee	Knoxville
Oct. 22	Ole Miss	Tuscaloosa
Nov. 5	LSU	Baton Rouge
Nov. 12	Mississippi State	Starkville
Nov. 19	Auburn	Birmingham
	SEC Championship Game	
Dec. 3	TBA	Birmingham

(All times to be announced except Southern Miss, which is homecoming and will be a 2:30 p.m. CDT kickoff.)

Alabama's 1993-94 Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

DATE/ UA Score	OPPONENT	TIME/ Opp. Score
79	*Levski-Totel of Bulgaria	65
102	*Spirit Express	90
57	Chattanooga	67
70	@ Washington State	76
86	Northwestern State	85
96	Florida A&M	58
62	@ Southern Miss	79
	Low Country Classic @ Charleston, S.C.	
82	Delaware State	44
60	Charleston	82
66	@ South Carolina	82
66	Arkansas	64
73	Vanderbilt	67
54	@ Ole Miss (JP)	70
104	Tennessee-Martin	68
71	@ LSU	67
69	Florida	61
Jan. 25	@ Auburn (ESPN)	8:40
Jan. 29	Mississippi State (JP)	3:00
Feb. 2	@ Kentucky (JP)	7:00
Feb. 5	@ Georgia (JP)	1:00
Feb. 8	LSU (ESPN)	8:40
Feb. 14	Mercer	7:30
Feb. 16	@ Arkansas (JP)	7:00
Feb. 19	Tennessee	1:30
Feb. 23	Tennessee State	7:30
Feb. 26	Ole Miss	1:30
Mar. 2	@ Mississippi State	7:00
Mar. 5	Auburn	1:30
Mar. 10-	SEC Tournament	
Mar. 13	@ Memphis	

*Exhibition game
All times central

Women's Basketball

DATE/ UA Score	OPPONENT	TIME/ Opp. Score
69	*Levski-Totel of Bulgaria	63
91	*Athletes In Action	87
	Cyclone Classic @ Iowa State	
82	Eastern Washington	62
99	Iowa State	57
	Shoney's Classic @ Tuscaloosa	
98	Coppin State	31
81	Grambling	50
86	@ East Tennessee	65
99	Louisiana Tech	77
	Central Florida Classic @ Orlando	
107	East Carolina	53
83	North Carolina	89
87	Florida State	33
70	Georgia	57
79	@ Illinois	68
73	@ Vanderbilt	77
119	@ Troy State	43
75	Florida	80
101	Mercer	46
94	@ South Carolina	77
Jan. 26	South Alabama	7:00
Jan. 30	LSU	2:00
Feb. 2	@ Arkansas	7:00
Feb. 5	@ Tennessee	6:00
Feb. 13	Kentucky	1:30
Feb. 16	Auburn	7:00
Feb. 19	Mississippi State	11 a.m.
Feb. 23	Alabama State	5:00
Feb. 26	@ Ole Miss	7:00
Feb. 28	Troy State	7:00
Mar. 4-	SEC Tournament	
Mar. 7	@ Chattanooga	

*Exhibition game
All times central

Gymnastics

DATE/ UA Score	OPPONENT	TIME/ Opp. Score
194.0	Auburn	188.575
Jan. 23	@ Arizona State	1:00
	Stanford @ Arizona State	
Jan. 28	@ Kentucky	7:00
Feb. 5	Georgia	7:30
Feb. 11	Penn State	7:30
Feb. 18	@ LSU	7:30
Feb. 25	Florida	7:30
March 5	@ Auburn	7:30
March 12	@ Georgia	6:30
March 18	LSU	7:30
March 26	SEC Championships @ Auburn	
April 9	NCAA Central Region	
April 21-	NCAA Championships	
April 23	@ Salt Lake City, Utah	
All times central		

Men's Indoor Track

DATE	MEET	RESULT
Jan. 15	Saluki Invitational @ Carbondale, Ill.	Fourth
Jan. 21	Barnett Bank Invitational @ Gainesville	Seventh
Feb. 5	Purple Tiger Invitational @ Baton Rouge	
Feb. 11-	Sooner Invitational	
Feb. 12	@ Oklahoma City	
Feb. 26-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 27	@ Gainesville	
March 5	NCAA Qualifiers Invitational @ Gainesville	
March 11-	NCAA Championships	
March 12	@ Indianapolis	

Men's Swimming & Diving

DATE/ UA Score	OPPONENT	TIME/ Opp. Score
129	@ Clemson	114
117	@ South Carolina	126
162	LSU	81
125	@ Iowa	175
Dec. 3-	Rammer Jammer	
Dec. 5	Invitational	
104	Florida	137
136	@ Florida State	106
154.5	North Carolina State @ FSU	88.5
Jan. 29	@ Auburn	11:00 a.m.
Feb. 5	Tennessee	11:00 a.m.
Feb. 16-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 19	@ Auburn	
March 4	Kentucky	TBA
March 5	Alabama Invitational	TBA
March 11-	NCAA Diving Prelims	
March 12	@ Auburn	
March 24-	NCAA Championships	
March 26	@ Minneapolis	

All times central

Women's Swimming & Diving

DATE/ UA Score	OPPONENT	TIME/ Opp. Score
132.5	@ Clemson	110.5
94	@ South Carolina	151
143	LSU	100
165.5	@ Houston	131.5
101	@ Texas	196
Dec. 3-	Rammer Jammer	
Dec. 5	Invitational	
94	Florida	135
Jan. 28	@ Auburn	7:00
Feb. 4	Tennessee	7:00
Feb. 16-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 19	@ Auburn	
March 4	Kentucky	TBA
March 5	Alabama Invitational	TBA
March 11-	NCAA Diving Prelims	
March 12	@ Auburn	
March 17-	NCAA Championships	
March 19	@ Indianapolis	

All times central

Women's Indoor Track

DATE	MEET	RESULT
Jan. 15	Saluki Invitational @ Carbondale, Ill.	First
Jan. 21	Barnett Bank Invitational @ Gainesville	First
Feb. 5	Purple Tiger Invitational @ Baton Rouge	
Feb. 11-	Sooner Invitational	
Feb. 12	@ Oklahoma City	
Feb. 26-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 27	@ Gainesville	
March 5	NCAA Qualifiers Invitational @ Gainesville	
March 11-	NCAA Championships	
March 12	@ Indianapolis	

Alabama's 1994 Spring Sports Schedules

Baseball

DATE/ UA Score	OPPONENT	TIME/ Opp. Score
Feb. 11	* Alumni Game Winn-Dixie Showdown @ New Orleans	TBA
Feb. 18	UNO	4:00
Feb. 19	Tulane	7:00
Feb. 20	LSU	12:00
	Lake Area Classic @ Lake Charles, La.	
Feb. 25	McNeese	7:00
Feb. 26	Lamar	12:00
Feb. 27	Tulane	1:00
March 2	Austin Peay	2:00
March 3	Austin Peay	2:00
March 5	@ West Florida	7:00
March 6	@ West Florida	2:00
March 8	St. Louis	2:00
March 9	St. Louis	2:00
March 10	Notre Dame	2:00
March 11	Notre Dame	2:00
March 12	Notre Dame	2:00
March 15	Louisville	2:00
March 16	Butler	2:00
March 17	Butler	2:00
March 19	Michigan State	2:00
March 20	Michigan State	2:00
March 23	Middle Tennessee State	7:00
March 25	@ South Carolina	6:00
March 26	@ South Carolina	1:00
March 27	@ South Carolina	1:00
March 29	@ South Florida	6:00
March 30	@ South Florida	6:00
March 31	* Boston Red Sox @ Fort Myers, Fla.	TBA
April 1	@ Florida	6:00
April 2	@ Florida	12:30
April 3	@ Florida	12:30
April 5	Alcorn State	2:00
April 6	Auburn @ Montgomery	7:00
April 8	Tennessee	7:00
April 9	Tennessee	4:00
April 10	Tennessee	2:00
April 12	Tennessee Tech	7:00
April 13	Troy State @ Dothan	7:00
April 15	Mississippi State	7:00
April 16	Mississippi State	4:00
April 17	Mississippi State	2:00
April 20	@ Alabama-Birmingham	6:05
April 22	@ Ole Miss	7:00
April 23	@ Ole Miss	1:00
April 24	@ Ole Miss	2:00
April 27	Alabama-Birmingham	7:00
April 29	LSU	7:00
April 30	LSU	4:00
May 1	LSU	2:00
May 3	Samford	7:00
May 6	@ Arkansas	7:00
May 7	@ Arkansas	7:00
May 8	@ Arkansas	2:00
May 11	Radford	7:00
May 13	Auburn	7:00
May 14	Auburn	4:00
May 15	Auburn	2:00
May 19-22	SEC Tournament	TBA
May 26-31	NCAA Regionals	TBA
June 3-11	College World Series @ Omaha	

* Exhibition Game
All times central

Men's Tennis

DATE/ UA Score	OPPONENT	TIME/ Opp. Score
Jan. 20-23	SEC Indoor Championships (Individual play only) @ New Orleans	
Jan. 28	@ Minnesota	2:00
Jan. 29	Indiana @ Minnesota	TBA
Feb. 3-6	Rolex National Indoor @ Dallas	
Feb. 12	Alabama-Birmingham	1:00
Feb. 19	Miami	1:00
Feb. 23-27	National Indoor Team @ Louisville	
March 5	Middle Tennessee State	12:00
March 5	Southeastern Louisiana	2:00
March 13	@ LSU	1:00
March 17-	Blue-Gray National Classic	
March 20	@ Montgomery	
March 26	@ Tennessee	12:30
March 28	@ Ole Miss	1:00
March 30	@ Arkansas	1:00
April 2	@ Auburn	1:00
April 3	Kentucky	1:00
April 10	Georgia	1:00
April 14	@ Mississippi State	1:00
April 17	Florida	2:00
April 22	South Carolina	1:00

All times central and subject to change

Men's Golf

DATE	TOURNAMENT
Feb. 19-20	Gator Invitational @ Gainesville, Fla.
March 11-13	Golf Digest Invitational @ Houston, Texas
March 25-27	Southeastern Invitational @ Lagoon Park, Montgomery
April 1-3	Carpet Capital Classic @ Dalton, Ga.
April 22-24	Billy Hitchcock Invitational @ Auburn
May 13-15	SEC Championships @ Knoxville, Tenn.
May 19-21	NCAA Regionals @ Auburn
June 1-4	NCAA Championships @ Dallas, Texas

Men's Track & Field

DATE	MEET
March 25-27	Alabama Relays
April 7-9	Sea Ray Relays @ Tennessee
April 16	Gator Invitational @ Florida
April 23	Crimson Classic
April 29-30	Drake Relays @ Des Moines, Iowa
May 12-15	SEC Championships @ Arkansas
May 25	Twilight Qualifiers @ North Carolina
June 1-4	NCAA Championships @ Boise, Idaho

Women's Tennis

DATE/ UA Score	OPPONENT	TIME/ Opp. Score
Jan. 21-23	Georgia Invitational @ Athens	
Feb. 4	South Alabama	2:00
Feb. 6	Oklahoma	10:00 a.m.
Feb. 11	@ Clemson	12:00
Feb. 13	@ Tennessee	7:00 a.m.
Feb. 19	Kansas @ Arkansas	11:00 a.m.
Feb. 20	@ Arkansas	11:00 a.m.
March 2	@ Vanderbilt	2:30
March 10	Purdue	2:00
March 12	LSU	12:00
March 18	Kentucky	2:00
March 26	@ South Florida	9:00 a.m.
March 27	@ Florida	9:00 a.m.
March 31	Wisconsin @ Miami	TBA
April 2	@ Miami	12:00
April 9	Georgia	12:00
April 10	Auburn	11:00 a.m.
April 12	@ Mississippi State	2:00
April 17	Ole Miss	12:00
April 23	@ South Carolina	TBA
April 27-	SEC Championships	
May 1	@ Arkansas	
May 11-15	NCAA Championships @ Georgia	

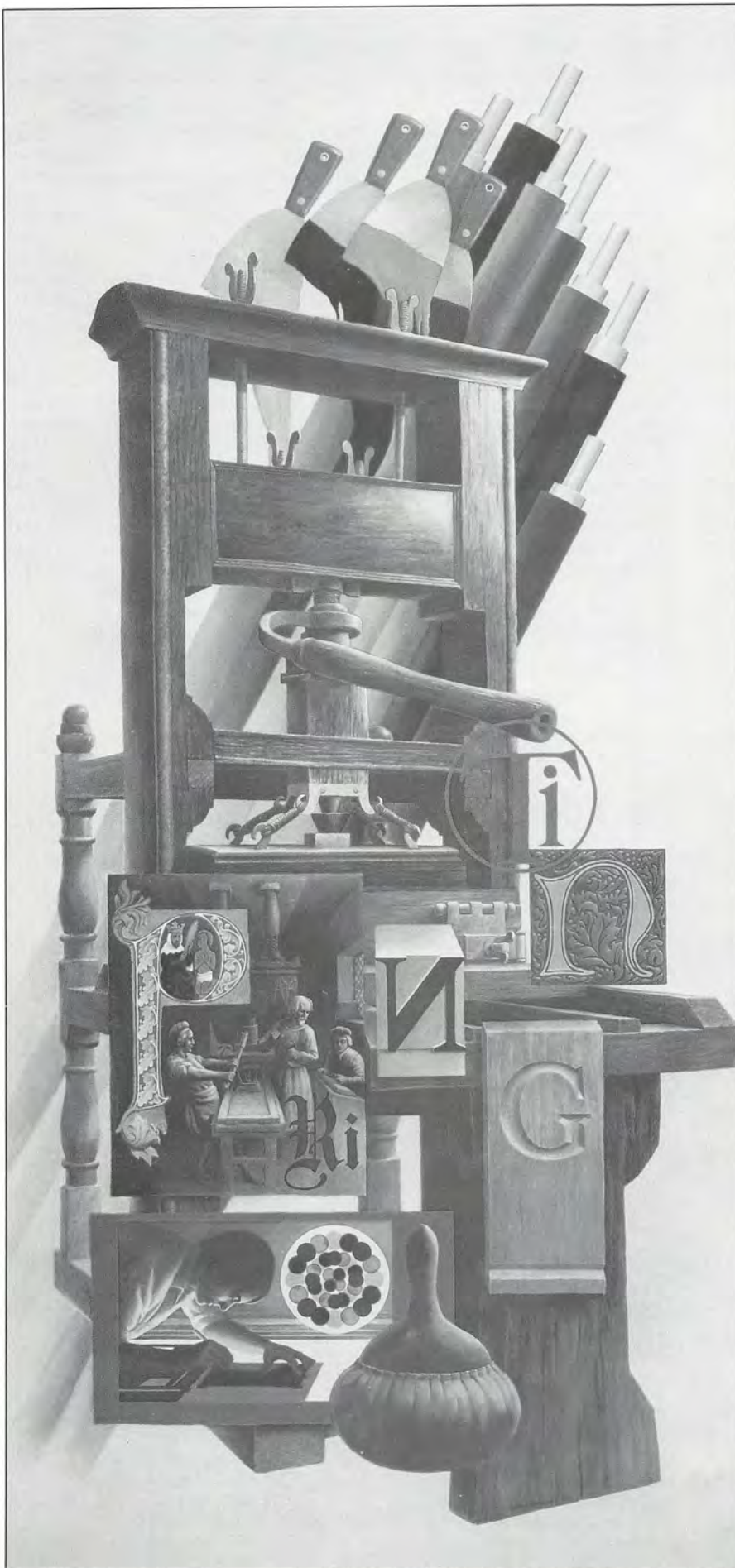
All times central

Women's Golf

DATE	TOURNAMENT
Feb. 21-22	Guadalajara Invitational @ Guadalajara, Mexico
March 4-6	San Jose Invitational @ Monterey, Calif.
March 25-27	Lady Gamecock Invitational @ Columbia, S.C.
April 15-17	Women's Southern Intercol. @ Athens, Ga.
April 29-	SEC Championships
May 1	@ Old Waverly, West Point, Miss.
May 12-14	NCAA Regionals @ East Lansing, Mich.
May 25-28	NCAA Championship @ Portland, Ore.

Women's Track & Field

DATE	MEET
March 25-27	Alabama Relays
April 7-9	Sea Ray Relays @ Tennessee
April 16	Gator Invitational @ Florida
April 23	Crimson Classic
April 29-30	Drake Relays @ Des Moines, Iowa
May 12-15	SEC Championships @ Arkansas
May 25	Twilight Qualifiers @ North Carolina
June 1-4	NCAA Championships @ Boise, Idaho



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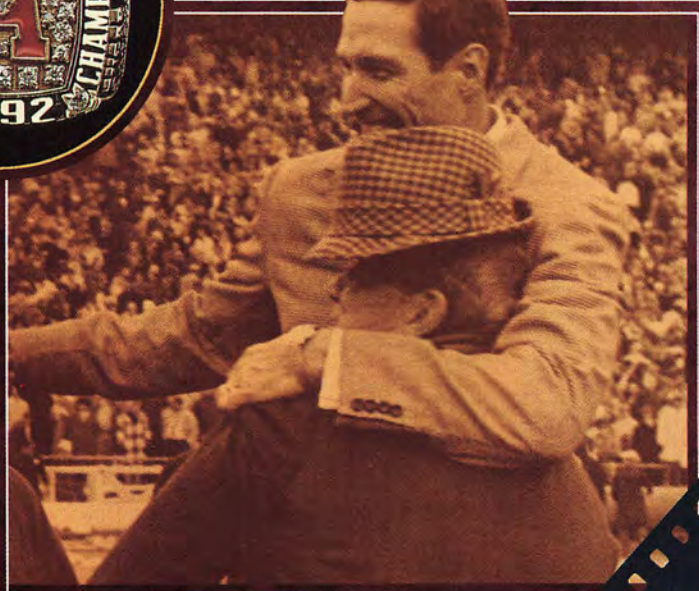
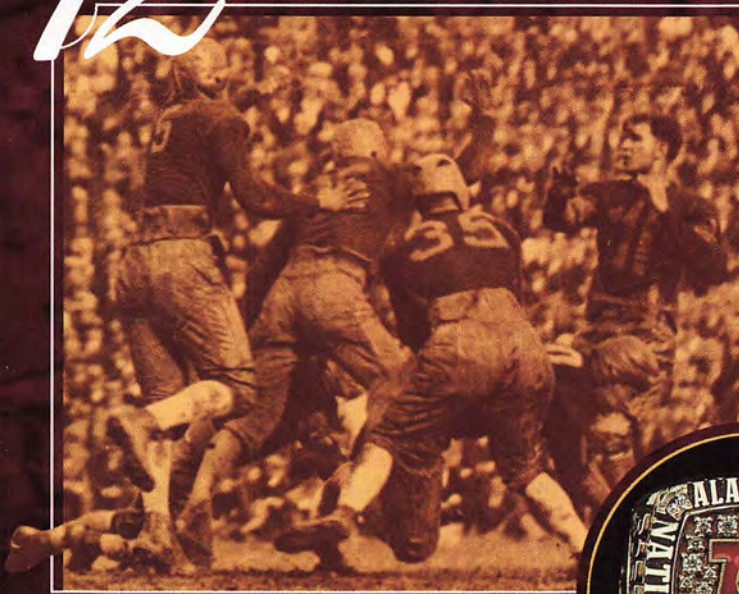


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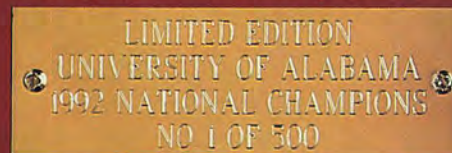
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